



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Noe Valley Real Estate: Some Like It Hot

By Loren Bialik

Is Noe Valley undergoing another real estate boom? It depends on who you ask.

A May 6 story in the *San Francisco Examiner*, by columnist Corrie Anders, leads off with the line "Noe Valley is hot again.

"During the past six months, residential property values have risen substantially in the San Francisco neighborhood that Baby Boomers discovered in the 1970s and 1980s," writes Anders, who himself was a 22nd Street resident in the late '70s and early '80s.

Anders bases his claim on a recent Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate survey, which showed that since October the value of a three-bedroom, single-family home in Noe Valley had risen 10.5 percent, from \$430,000 to \$475,000.

Marilyn Anne Lucas, a longtime Noe Valley resident and owner of Lucas Re-



Like sherpas, the movers toted dozens of boxes into Richard and Jessica Anderson's new home on Elizabeth Street, as the couple made ready to settle in as Noe Valleyans and take a stroll to 24th Street. "I hope to park the car in the garage and never take it out again," said Jessica Anderson. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

alty on Hoffman Avenue, agrees that the neighborhood has become a "hot market. We're seeing an increase in buyers, primarily in the larger homes, the three-bedroom category," she says.

Another local realtor, Carren Shagley of Coldwell Banker, who has been scouting property here since 1983, explains

that "prices hit bottom in 1993. Noe Valley experienced a 15 to 20 percent decrease in property prices then. But now there are two buyers for every house that comes out that's properly priced."

Other real estate agents say the market

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At a "house party" sponsored by the Noe Valley Democratic Club, Willie Brown told neighborhood residents, "I've made the decision. I want to run for mayor. Now, instead of talking me into running, you've got to talk me out of it." PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Willie Brown Tests the Waters in Noe

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

California Assembly Speaker Willie Brown, the unofficial, undeclared frontrunner in what promises to be San Francisco's liveliest mayoral race in years, came to Noe Valley on May 13 to "listen closely, touch the water, and learn if San Franciscans want me or somebody like me to run for mayor."

The 61-year-old Brown, looking typically dapper in gray linen slacks, black blazer, gold tie, impeccably pressed white shirt, and gold pinkie ring, spoke to close

to 50 residents who gathered at the 26th Street home of Melanie Norden, vice president of the Noe Valley Democratic Club, which sponsored the get-together.

"I'm sure not one of you is wondering why I'm here," Brown joshed as he began his half-hour presentation to the group. The attentive crowd munched on cold cuts, corn chips, and fresh fruit as they listened to the 31-year Assembly veteran and California's most prominent African-American officeholder.

Earlier in the week, on May 10, during a guest stint on Michael Krasny's KQED

radio talk show *Forum*, Brown was asked by several callers about his campaign for mayor.

"I have no campaign structure for mayor or set up," Brown said. "The minute I decide, we'll spread the news like wildfire. It's going to be a blitz like no one's ever seen before."

"It's a good bet he'll be running for mayor," Krasny told his listeners, noting that Brown had been prefacing answers to callers' questions with "when I do"

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Are Cafes & Restaurants Eating up 24th Street?

By Denise Minor

Working on behalf of several neighborhood residents, a Noe Valley lawyer has launched a legal battle against the proliferation of eating establishments on 24th Street.

Attorney Henry Epstein of 29th Street claims that at least two food purveyors—one a takeout and the other a long-established deli—are in violation of the city's zoning laws, enacted in the 1980s to protect Noe Valley from being overrun by restaurants.

He says he is tired of waiting for the city to enforce the planning code.

"The neighborhood associations can cry bloody murder, and the Planning Department won't do anything about it," Epstein said. "So maybe it's time to take things a step further."

In March, Epstein took Rustico to Go, a "low-fat" pizza and pasta takeout on the corner of 24th and Sanchez, to the Board of Permit Appeals in an attempt to have the owner's operating permits revoked.

And at a mid-May meeting of the Friends of Noe Valley, Epstein asked the residents' group to be a plaintiff in Superior Court against the 24th Street Cafe, located on 24th near Vicksburg. He said the owner of the 24th Street Cafe (formerly called 3-J's Deli) had illegally created a restaurant from what was previously a delicatessen.

"I know you will want to consider this carefully," Epstein told the Friends. "It will hurt somebody if you go forward."

Epstein said he would charge the Friends a reduced hourly rate of about \$80

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The June 21 Deadline Approacheth

Yes, you have just three weeks to pen your masterpiece and win fame and fortune in the 1995 Voice Literary Contest (details on page 2). The top entries in three categories—fiction, non-fiction, and poetry—will be prominently displayed in our August issue and carefully packed into a Noe Valley time capsule, to be opened in the year 2095 by your many curious descendants (not to mention creatures from outer space). But no pressure. Any old thing will do.

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Video Wave Makes Teacher's Week

Editor:

My partner, Ricki, and I have been residents of Noe Valley for over 20 years, and we have raised our three children here.

Last week, I had a wonderful experience that reminded me once again why we've been so happy here all these years. A major factor is the sense of community, such as the community consciousness of so many of the neighborhood establishments.

I want to acknowledge Alexander and Gardenia Gardner at Video Wave on Castro Street for contributing to my best week in teaching all year. Video Wave has a policy of one free night rental to teachers at any non-tuition public school. I have been happily taking advantage of this for years. Last Sunday I went in to rent *Schindler's List* for my U.S. history classes at John O'Connell High. The film is over three hours long, so I figured I would have to pay for at least four nights' rental. But the store happened to have an extra copy of the letter-box format, so Alexander offered to let me sign it out for an entire week for free, because he said he wanted to support what I was doing.

I was very moved by this because it is supportive gestures like Alexander's that help keep public school teachers going. Believe me, there are not many perks, and we spend a lot of our own money.

The other thing that keeps us going is the magic that happens in the classroom. I couldn't have wished for a better response from my students to *Schindler's List*. For five days they were enthralled. They asked thoughtful questions and made thoughtful comments.

They were saddened, shocked, angry,



Fans of the Noe Valley Voice: Teruko Yoshida of Yokohama, Japan, pansrs during a traditional Japanese danro performance to read the Noe Valley Voice. Her daughter, Yuka Yoshida, visited the Murphy family on Church Street this winter, and carried a copy of the Voice with her when she returned to her home in the Minami-ku section of Yokohama. Pictured also are 3-year-old dancer Kohabuki Kosri (left) and Hanahabuki Ongi (center), director of the troupe. PHOTO BY YUKO YOSHIDA, COURTESY OF KATIE MURPHY

puzzled, upset, and admiring. There was deep empathy for the grievous wrong done to the Jewish people and admiration for their spirit of survival. They understood through Schindler that one person can make a difference. They saw lessons for themselves that tolerating oppression of any group can lead to oppression of their own group.

When I broke down crying on the last day, one of my students came over and hugged me and said she understood. She and another student rented the film again to show to their parents. What a week!

A big theme that I emphasize to my multiethnic students is coalition politics: respect each other, stick together, and form alliances for the common good. And this I think Video Wave understands very well. Thank you for reaching out to public school teachers and in effect saying that our students are your concern, too.

Andrea Lyons
Twenty-seventh Street

Noe Valley Voice Literary Contest

Win Cash Prizes!

Deadline June 21, 1995

The Noe Valley Voice proudly announces the 1995 Voice Literary Contest and a special August issue dedicated to the prize winners in three categories: Fiction (short stories), Non-Fiction (first-person essays, interviews, editorials), and Poetry.

Prizes (awarded in each of three categories)

First Place	\$100
Second Place	\$ 50
Third Place	\$ 25

Nine big winners will appear in the August 1995 edition of the Voice (circulation 10,000), along with plenty of other fine writing. Subject matter is not limited in any way, but remember—this is a family newspaper!

Contest Rules

1. Manuscripts must be the original work of the contestant, unpublished, and no longer than 2,000 words. They should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of 8 1/2 x 11" white paper.
2. Fiction and Non-Fiction contestants may enter one manuscript only. Poetry contestants may enter three poems.
3. Please submit three copies of your manuscript(s). Do not send originals. Entries will neither be returned nor their receipt acknowledged.
4. Contestants should include their name, address, and phone number on the first manuscript page, and on all poems. Also indicate the title of the piece, and the contest category you are entering. Cover letters are not necessary.
5. There is no entry fee. Entries will be judged by staff members of the Voice.
6. All persons except current staff members of the Voice are eligible to enter.
7. The Noe Valley Voice reserves the right to publish the winning entries and any honorable mentions, as space allows, in the August 1995 issue.
8. All entries must be received in the Noe Valley Voice office by Wednesday, June 21, 1995. Winners will be notified by July 20 and announced on Aug. 2, 1995, when the August issue hits the streets. (No phone calls, please.)
9. Please mail entries to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Thank you and good luck.

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

1021 Sanchez Street
San Francisco, CA 94114

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sources on fighting the really serious problems facing our city, like health and education cuts, unemployment, family disintegration, and homelessness.

Meanwhile, I'm proud that it's Cesar Chavez Street. Viva Cesar Chavez Street!

Joe Hakim
Valley Street

Reagan and Army Go Hand in Hand

Editor:

So far, whenever I pass the former Army Street, I am stunned by the new street signs. "That's right," I tell myself. "It's now Cesar Chavez Street!" And I chuckle at the thought.

Over 20 years ago, I stopped eating grapes for that man. Today I'm thrilled to be living just a few blocks from the street bearing his name — a small token considering his enormous legacy. Eventually, the surprise will wear off, of course, but I doubt the thrill will ever go away.

If only those in the SFSAS (San Franciscans to Save Army Street), who are so worked up about a street name change that they have sponsored a repeal measure, would spend their energy and re-

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LETTERS

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remains as a private (albeit, seriously ailing) citizen—Ronald Reagan, unlike the tinkering, meddlesome, left-liberal elite, would neither allow nor endorse irrational change for change's sake, which is what the Board of Supervisors did by renaming Army Street merely to satiate a special interest constituency.

More importantly, once the former president has "shed his mortal coil," were there to arise some moment to honor his accomplishments by placing his name on an avenue, boulevard, or street, it most assuredly would not happen in the ever-so politically correct, feminist-driven, and Marxist-oriented commune of San Francisco. No, that honor belongs to the unlamented revolutionary Cesar Chavez, rather than to a patriotic American, as present and future generations shall always regard Ronald Reagan!

Thomas M. Edwards
Douglass Street



Responsible Dogs Stay Clear of Glen Canyon

Editor:

Regarding Loren Bialik's story, "Tails Wagging at Noe Courts" [Noe Valley Voice May 1995], I am happy that Noe Courts and the Responsible Pet Owners of Noe Valley came to an amicable agreement. However, in their Cooperative Use Statement for Noe Courts, they are not being responsible when advising drivers with dogs to avoid Noe Courts and go to Glen Park instead (item number 6).

Although Upper Douglass Park is a



Towering Above the Rest: Noe Valleons Bob, Heidi, and Darlene Shadel used the April Fool's issue of the Voice to appear erudite while inspecting historical artifacts this spring at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. PHOTO COURTESY DARLENE SHADEL.

designated dog run, Glen Canyon Park is not. The Glen Park Dog Club has been trying very hard to control dog use in the park. It is not helpful for Noe Valley to send its "drive-in" dog problem to Glen Canyon Park, which has been declared a significant natural resource area.

Islais Creek runs through the canyon and is one of the two remaining above-ground creeks in San Francisco. Two issues identified by WESCO in its *Master Plan Recommendations: Glen Canyon Park, San Francisco* are the harassment of wildlife by dogs and the contamination of the creek by dog wastes.

Dear Responsible Pet Owners of Noe Valley: Please don't contribute to our problems in Glen Park. Help us to preserve our natural resources and support the concerns of the Glen Park Dog Club and the Friends of Glen Canyon Park.

Jean Conner
Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Breathe Easier on 24th St.

Editor:

Noe Valley is a great place to live in a lot of categories, but I'm not sure preser-

vation of good health is one.

Twenty-fourth Street's EMF (electromagnetic fields) level is higher than what is considered prudent pending further research. I'm not sure if there is anything that can be done about the EMF level, but there may be something that can be done about the black smoke spewing from buses belching along 24th Street.

According to Muni, if you call the Muni complaint line, 923-6144, they will recall or replace buses that are emitting too much smoke.

I have done this on more than one occasion, but as I am not out on the street on a 24-hour basis, I would appreciate any additional help.

Diane Brown
Twenty-fourth Street

Muchas Mochas

Editor:

We really want to thank you for all the great press you have been giving our group and our show. The mentions have brought many fellow Noe Valleyans to "Liquid Soap," our "interactive soap opera" at the Climate Theater. It was very



Dateline, Istanbul: Elizabeth Street resident Marty Birkenthal pauses in front of the Hagia Sophia, a mosque in Istanbul, Turkey. PHOTO BY CARLOS LIZARZABURU

evident that they were there in full force during our last run. On opening night when we asked the audience for a favorite hangout in the fictitious soap opera town, the audience yelled out "Martha's Coffeeshop!" So we had all the characters visiting Martha's for lattes throughout the show. It seemed very familiar to most of our group, since we spend a lot of time sitting on the bench in front of Martha's every morning, or stopping by the Church Street Martha's for pre-rehearsal mochas.

Just wanted to share that with you. Hope to see more Noe Valleyans soaping it up with us in our next run!

C. Marie and the cast of Liquid Soap

Twenty-eighth Street

P.S. How do you spell "Noe Valleyans" anyway? I know: L-U-C-K-Y!

Editor's Reply: We're trying to go straight and use "Noe Valleyans," which is most probably the correct left-brain version, but we're getting awfully attached to "Noe Valleons," the goofy misspelling we've been using for years. It gives us local yokels a certain swashbuckling flair, don't you think?

Real Estate - Hot, or Not?

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is hot in spots, but by no means is it bubbling over.

"No way is this a boom market," asserts B.J. Droubi, owner of B.J. Droubi Real Estate on 24th Street. "Very special properties have increased dramatically in price, but not all of them."

Droubi points out that buyers have been finicky, sometimes taking up to two years to unearth the right house. "Buyers are looking for location, light, south garden, garage, a house that's in good condition and priced right. If it has all those things, then there will be multiple offers."

Ilse Cordon, sales manager at Zephyr Real Estate and a 19-year veteran of handling properties in Noe Valley, also thinks the *Examiner* was jumping the gun. With the exception of a few homes at the upper end of the market, Noe Valley real estate sales have been kind of hit-or-miss, she says.

"The prime properties—the three-bedroom, two-bath house on 23rd Street with garden, fixed-up kitchen, hardwood floors, a working fireplace—everybody wants those! But as soon as you remove one of those amenities, the bids dry up."

One thing Cordon is sure of, however: "Our volume of business is way down from last year. So it's hard for a person who is looking at the total volume to say the market is hot."

Cordon was so bothered by the "incorrect impression" left by the *Examiner* story that she wrote a long letter, published in the paper's May 14 edition.

"The facts depicted in the article tell only a small part of the story of the 1995 market," she wrote.

"I have run cumulative statistics for 1994, the entire year, and 1995 to date. These statistics do show the average price

[in Noe Valley] having gone up from \$360,674 to \$379,049. Interestingly, there were a total of 135 sales in 1994, compared with only 22 in the first four months of 1995 (as you know, spring is usually the most active time of the year)."

Cordon rechecked her figures, culled from the San Francisco Association of Realtors Multiple Listing Service, and discovered that one more sale had been added to the number of houses sold from January through April 1995, bringing the total to 23.

"But that compares with 45 houses sold in Noe Valley during the same period last year. Now *last year* was a hot market," she says.

Despite the mild disagreement over whether Noe Valley is heating up or cooling down, all of the brokers concur that there is a shortage of available inventory. And statistics from the Multiple Listing Service bear them out. During the first quarter of 1994, 74 dwellings were put on the market in our area. In 1995, that number dropped to 55, a 26 percent decrease in new listings.

So who's buying homes in Noe Valley?

The brokers agree that it is dual-income professional couples, including gays and

lesbians, who are buying the homes.

"Doctors, lawyers, computer professionals, and sales people, like real estate agents, are the people who can afford these houses," said Shagley. She points out that prospective homeowners in Noe Valley need \$45,000 down and an income of \$100,000 a year, to qualify for a loan on a \$450,000 house.

Many of the newcomers are either planning on having children, or already have them.

"In the '70s, I'd see people walking down the street with a couple of dogs," said Lucas. "Now all I see in Noe Valley are people walking down the street with a couple of kids."

Cordon agrees that many of those who buy houses in the neighborhood are "yuppies, if you will, who are getting ready to start a family. They have the baby, stay for a few years, but then say, 'Oh my God, where's the kid going to go to school?' That's when they move to Marin."

Whether or not sales are brisk, Noe Valley remains a hot property in the sense that it is one of San Francisco's most desirable places to live.

Richard and Jessica Anderson moved into their new home on Elizabeth Street

in May. They paid \$420,000 for a 1,400-square-foot, two-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath Victorian with a terraced garden in the front. But they're not complaining.

According to Richard Anderson, who works as a multimedia photographer, "What makes life rich is an association with creative and interesting people, and you find them living in Noe Valley."

Jessica Anderson, who works in marketing and product development at Wells Fargo Bank, finds that "there is more of a community feeling in Noe Valley than in the suburbs." (The couple's last address was Hercules, California.) And she likes the fact that she can walk everywhere. "I hope to park the car in the garage and never take it out again."

Another new resident is Mark Goldsmith, a physician at San Francisco General Hospital who describes himself as "single, but eligible." Goldsmith recently acquired a home on 24th Street between Diamond and Douglass. He says he looked forward to moving from Half Moon Bay "because Noe Valley has a great neighborhood feel. People interact a lot, and that's what I'm looking for. The fine dining is very attractive, and I also think it's a good investment."

Philip Feemster, a creative director for the ad agency Highway One, was tired of the cold and snow he had put up with in Boston for the past six years. The weather here is more agreeable to him (just wait till he gets a load of the fog), and he likes the sense of neighborhood.

"Within a few hours [of moving in], I met every neighbor," he said.

The house Feemster purchased on 20th Street cost him \$370,000. "For your dollar you get sound value," he said, although his mother, a retired real estate broker in Abilene, Texas, was shocked at the price.

Nevertheless, she thinks her son made a wise purchase. "After I saw the photographs he sent me, I had to admit, you can't buy that kind of view in Abilene."

Maybe she's right.

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For more information please call
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Noe Valley Democratic Club

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Is 24th Street Suffering from A Glut of Restaurants?

Continued from Page 1

if the group decided to proceed.

One member asked whether the Friends could be liable for the 24th Street Cafe's legal costs, should the cafe win its case. Epstein said he didn't believe so, but would investigate further and report back to the Friends at the organization's June meeting.

In the case of Rustico to Go, Epstein, his client (whom he says he cannot name), and several supporters complained to the city's Planning Department that the site—formerly occupied by Pergamino Coffee, and before that, by the Pantry—was zoned for retail use and therefore could sell food only as an accessory.

But the business, Epstein argued, was obviously a takeout restaurant that offered a few retail items just to be in compliance.

In January, the city issued Rustico owner Karen Goldberg a stop-work order while it investigated her plans to remodel the shop. She made some changes in design and was allowed to proceed.

Then Goldberg was ordered to close down again in March, until the Board of Permit Appeals met March 22 to consider the case Epstein and his client had brought against her.

The board decided in Goldberg's favor. "I think that the neighbors were speculating that because of the way it [the site] was designed, it would turn into a restaurant illegally in the future," said the board's executive director, Robert Feldman. "But as things stand, she is in compliance."

Even though she won her case, Goldberg felt as if she had been raked over the coals.

"I'm so angry that they could do what they did to me," she said. "I had to close down after I'd already opened, and hire a lawyer for \$11,000 in order to keep my permits."

"I'm not Starbucks. I'm not Thrifty. I'm just a small business person, and this legal fight hurt me a lot financially."

It also hurt those on the street who were looking for a healthy fast-food alternative. Said Liz Klein, owner of Joshua Simon clothing store a few doors down, "I think it's terrible what they tried to do to Rustico. We here at the store have been hoping for exactly that kind of place to go for lunch. I'll tell you frankly," she added, "I even wish it was sit-down, because so many of our customers ask for that."

Jersey Street resident Peggy Lenartowicz, who attended the Board of Permit Appeals hearing, was upset too, but for opposite reasons.

"The lack of professionalism on that



Rustico to Go, a new takeout at 24th and Sanchez, was almost given the heave-ho by nearby residents

PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

board is astounding," she said. "What it all came down to was not about enforcing the law, but about how much they personally liked Rustico. They were telling her, 'We love your store. It's so beautiful.'"

But Feldman defended the board's decision. "The board is very evenhanded. It tends to uphold permits that meet codes," he said. "And this business met the code."

Nevertheless, Lenartowicz lamented the addition of one more eating establishment to the "restaurant row" that abuts her property on Jersey Street.

"This will be just one more vent pouring smells into the air. It has gotten difficult to function in our back yards with all the garbage piled up behind the restaurants, and the noise from the exhaust fans," she said.

"I have horror stories of the rats coming from behind Tien Fu, and the noise from crashing bottles being separated in the morning behind the taqueria," she continued, "to say nothing of the double-parking that clogs our streets from people getting takeout food."

"This has nothing to do with Rustico per se, but has to do with the proliferation of food-oriented businesses."

In asking for the Friends' support in contesting the 24th Street Cafe, Epstein told the members who attended the meeting that he was no longer in the employ of the client who had hired him in the Rustico case. In order to take the 24th Street Cafe owner to Superior Court, he explained, he needed to represent someone or some group that could show a vested interest in closing the business.

"We could ask the court to issue an in-

junction saying they were in violation of the law," said Epstein, "or we could ask the court to issue a writ of mandamus, which would order the city to enforce its own laws."

The cafe owner, Joe Eadeh, was shocked to learn of Epstein's claim. "I never heard a thing about it before now," he said. "I have my permits."

Eadeh said his establishment had had seating since he bought the business as a delicatessen almost eight years ago. He said he then got city permits to put in a hood and stove to have a full-service kitchen about three years ago.

"If I wasn't supposed to do that, how come the city gave me the permits?" said Eadeh.

That, according to Epstein, is the crux of the matter.

"I have copies of applications made in 1988 by the previous owner for that site [3853 24th St.] to have a full-service restaurant," said Epstein. "They were denied. They weren't supposed to have tables and chairs. They're supposed to have accessory food service only."

"So, if the permit was turned down then, why would it be granted a few years later? The laws haven't changed," continued Epstein.

The answer, he believes, is in a disorganized permit process. First of all, Epstein claims that Planning Department permit applications are rarely investigated properly. "They take them at face value. Whatever is there on the paper, they believe," he said.

Secondly, there are three departments that must in many cases grant approval

for major renovations and business changes: Health, Planning, and Building Inspection. According to Epstein, some proprietors never hear from the Planning Department, so take approval from the other two departments as the "go-ahead."

"This is the real kicker. If the Planning Department doesn't get back to you for a year, you might believe the city has given you permission to go ahead. If they try to close you then, you might have a good argument that you have an implicit contract with the city," said Epstein. "Essentially, it destroys the whole planning code."

"If this were New York," he added, "I'd say that money exchanged hands on some of these deals. But my impression in San Francisco is that it's just the laissez-faire method of government."

Planning Director Robert Passmore defended his department by saying that Planning was doing the best it could with a short staff and small budget. He said he had received complaints about the 24th Street Cafe, and had begun to investigate the issue. "They [Eadeh] did receive some type of permit," said Passmore. "Whether or not it is all they need, I don't know yet."

Passmore said a temporary moratorium on new restaurants on 24th Street, between Diamond and the west side of Chattanooga, had been established in the early 1980s. A permanent freeze went into effect in 1987. Two loopholes were later passed, however, and those exemptions have placed a heavy investigatory burden on the Planning Department. Passmore said he had sent a memorandum to the

Continued on Page 7

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'Downtown Noe Valley' Supports 176 Businesses

By Jim Christie

Zephyr Real Estate, the realty firm at 4040 24th St., has released the results of its second annual survey of businesses along the 24th Street commercial corridor.

And, surprise, the six-block strip, known affectionately as Downtown Noe Valley, has virtually the same number of shops, cafes, and offices as it did last year. In April, Zephyr agent Bill Welsh counted 176 businesses, versus the 175 tallied in the spring of 1994.

The survey was conducted on 24th Street from Douglass to Dolores Street, and included a couple of blocks of Diamond, Castro, Noe, Sanchez, and Church streets, where they intersect 24th Street.

Once again, restaurants topped the category list, with 24 locations, followed by 11 retail clothing stores, 11 professional offices, 7 hair salons, 7 laundries, 6 real estate offices, 6 grocery stores, 6 bars, and 5 liquor stores.

The survey does show that 10 new businesses have been established since March 1994, but most of them are dispensing the same product or service. For example, the Noe Valley Bakery & Bread Co. replaced the Noe Valley Bakery, the Rover's Inn opened in place of the 1st Inning Lounge, and Travel Time took over for Global Travel Too.

One of the 10 new businesses listed was Misha's Antiques, which was already in the neighborhood in early 1994, but relocated from Sanchez Street to 24th Street (replacing Isa's men's clothing shop) this spring. Another "new" store was Rory's Ice Cream at 24th and Castro; it merely had a change in ownership, however.

The two storefronts that now offer different services than their predecessors are Rustico to Go, which replaced Pergamino Coffee at Sanchez and 24th (see zoning story, page 1), and Eye Q Optometry, which opened in April in the old Printmasters location on 24th Street (see this month's *Storetrek*).

Zephyr's Welsh said the total number of businesses would probably remain stable for the foreseeable future, because "there are no significant vacancies at this time. Any additional space will have to be in newly constructed buildings, or buildings converted from their present use."

The Second Spanish Baptist Church, on 24th Street next to Bell Market, is one site that may see new construction, possibly as early as spring 1996. As reported in the November 1994 issue of the *Voice*, the building and lot were purchased by Joe Cassidy Construction, Inc., last fall.

According to Zephyr, which handled the sale of the property, Cassidy is in the process of obtaining permits to build a two-story retail and condominium complex, which will include space for 14 second-floor residential units, an underground parking garage, and...three new stores on the ground floor. □

Some Residents Say They're Full Of 24th St. Cafes

Continued from Page 5

Board of Supervisors saying as much.

The first loophole was the "accessory-use" exemption, which allows retail stores to sell takeout food if they dedicate no more than 100 square feet or one-third of their square footage to food preparation and sale.

"I think this was intended to allow, for instance, a mom-and-pop store to sell sandwiches out of their deli counter," said Epstein.

Then, two years ago, what is now known as the "Starbucks Amendment" was passed. It allows for coffee vendors to put in tables and chairs, as long as no food preparation is done on the premises.

That amendment was written by the law firm of Coblenz, Cahen, McCabe, and Breyer, which had been hired by Starbucks Coffee. The law firm then gave the legislation to Supervisor Angela Alioto, who presented it to the Board of Supervisors, where it was passed almost verbatim. Only one neighborhood commercial district, the one in Alioto's North Beach neighborhood, in fact, was exempted from having to abide by the amendment.

"Angela Alioto basically did an end-run around the neighborhoods with that one," said Jean Amos, a Friends of Noe Valley member and longtime Elizabeth Street resident. "So now we're trying to coordinate support to have Noe Valley exempted from the Starbucks Amendment, too."

A legislative aide to Supervisor Sue Bierman confirmed that because of requests from Noe Valley residents, the supervisor had asked the City Attorney's

Office to draft legislation to exempt Noe Valley's commercial strip from permitting businesses to slip in under the Starbucks Amendment.

Amos was also active in the fight against Rustico to Go. "I have absolutely nothing against Rustico. I love good food, and I hear she has good food," said Amos. "But in that block it is staggering how many places you can buy food."

"And the more restaurants, the less other commercial uses you have on a street," she continued. "It may be nice for those who drive here to eat at our many restaurants, but it ain't so great for those of us who have to live here."

"Some people say that the food coming in now is better than a few of the places already on the street," said Amos. "But when you ask for a cap on restaurants, you're stuck with what you've got—and that means shitty food too."

Goldberg said she understood the position of the neighbors who tried to shut her down.

"But I think they're being unruly. I wish they would look more closely at who it is they are trying to bring down," she said. "I'm trying hard to develop a business that serves the neighbors. I'm coming up with dinners that people can buy on their way home to serve their families."

"We're reducing prices too," she added, "because some people told us they were too high."

Goldberg said that shutting down twice and never knowing whether she would lose everything, was very trying for her, particularly because she was in a serious car accident at the time.

"It was terrible. I was a physical and emotional basket case," she said. "But I

want to put this in my past. I'm here to stay, and I'd love to become part of the community."

Meanwhile, Epstein claims that the new food businesses are not going to get much community support from merchants on the street.

"The merchants themselves are upset," he said. "Because of the moratorium, landlords can charge them higher rent, saying that they don't have as much competition. But the way things stand, they get the competition and the higher rent."

Epstein said at the Friends' meeting that he planned to approach the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, to ask them to be co-plaintiffs with Friends in the case against the 24th Street Cafe.

However, Association President J. P. Gillen slapped a hand to his forehead when the *Voice* asked whether he thought his organization would consider such a move.

"I don't know that we would want to single out any individuals," he said. "The issue here is that our elected officials and our city government don't do anything to protect the neighborhoods. I've written letter after letter after letter."

"That's the place the change has to be made," said Gillen. "And if we're going to start enforcing zoning violations, it's got to be across the board—second-story businesses, restaurants, everything."

For its part, Friends of Noe Valley is still chewing on Epstein's proposal. □

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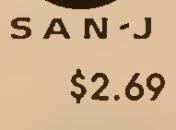
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Willie Brown Makes a Whistle-stop

Continued from Page 1

rather than "if I do."

"I appreciate your listening so carefully, Michael," Brown laughed.

As a partial explanation for his delay in confirming his candidacy, Brown told the Noe Valley audience he had been focusing on the recall election against state Assemblymember Paul Horcher (Independent - Diamond Bar). A former Republican, Horcher faced recall over his casting of the deciding vote last December, which allowed Brown to stay on as speaker of the Assembly. Republicans across the state, but particularly those in Horcher's staunchly right-wing Southern California district, saw his act as something akin to larceny.

"Diamond Bar is a very, very hateful environment," said Brown, who had visited the town in the hope of raising support for Horcher. "Hatred oozes from the body of people there."

Three days after Brown's visit to Noe Valley, Horcher became the first legislator recalled in California in 84 years. He was kicked out by an almost 2-to-1 margin, slimming considerably Brown's chances of keeping the speaker job, a position he's held for 15 years. The setback may also push Brown into the mayor's race sooner than expected. (The cutoff date for filing is Aug. 16.)

According to Noe Valley Democratic Club President Rick Hauptman, Brown and other mayoral candidates will likely be campaigning heavily in Noe Valley.

"Noe Valley is a very important community for candidates," said Hauptman. "I got the sense that Brown was very happy to be invited to speak here. We have one of the highest voter turnouts in the city and some very strong, active neighborhood groups. We're a well-informed and involved neighborhood."

However, with the Nov. 7 election still several months away, most Noe Valley residents who attended the Brown event hadn't given much thought to the mayoral race, partly because they weren't sure who the final candidates would be.

Besides Brown, former Mayor Art Agnos and Supervisor Terence Hallinan were still pondering potential candidacies last month. Meanwhile, declared candidates, including incumbent Frank Jordan, Supervisor Angela Alioto, and former Supervisor Roberta Achtenberg, who stepped down as assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, were also gearing up for the race.

"It still feels kind of early to be thinking about the mayor's race," said Laura Smith, a 29th Street resident. "But I'm here today because I believe voters really need to pay attention and figure out

what to do. As Democrats, we need to be united. We have to set aside our special interests and whether we're moderate Democrats or liberal Democrats and be really united for a change."

Added Sara Hsu of Sanchez Street, "I'm still waiting for all the candidates to surface. It seems like there are going to be so many heavyweight Democrats running that they're going to weaken each other's positions."

A common theme among those present was a desire to toss Frank Jordan out of office.

"I usually choose a candidate based on how they stand on specific issues," said Kate Black of Valley Street. "I'm also interested in a candidate who can defeat Mayor Jordan."

"Jordan has been very supportive of business interests at the expense of most of the residents of San Francisco," said Mark Freeland, a Sanchez Street resident. "I'd like to see someone in office who cares more about the people of this city and who is not as indecisive as Frank Jordan."



"Strangely enough," he continued, "I haven't followed Willie Brown's politics that much. It seems like the press covers his political skills more than his politics. He's a very skilled politician and he's extremely charismatic. I met him one time when I was on a walking tour with the San Francisco Historical Society. He was out in front of a building and stopped to say hello and shake hands with us. That's a true politician. Personally, he seems to be a wonderful guy, but I'm not sure what he stands for politically."

Other attendees seemed plain fed up with politics.

"I'm sort of jaded about the political process because I do quite a bit of graphic design work for politicians," said Day Street resident Joel Blum. "I'm here because I'm interested in hearing Willie Brown speak. And I take an interest in city politics like anyone else who lives here. But I'm not going to believe anything that he says here today will be what he does in office. This is to win him votes."

Before visiting Noe Valley in the afternoon, Brown attended a breakfast with Sunset residents in an Irving Street home and later "walked the streets, talking to merchants and residents," he said. "All but one woman shook my hand. I think she thought I was a purse snatcher," Brown chuckled to the Noe Valley audience.

He also made reference to his walk along San Jose Avenue and a trip downtown to take care of "some quick personal things."

Perhaps to demonstrate how quickly he can get up to speed on neighborhood affairs, Brown rattled off a litany of problems in the Sunset District, including Blockbuster Video's attempt to locate a store on Irving Street and the large num-

ber of accidents occurring at the intersection of Ninth and Irving.

He mentioned passing by "an amazing Greek restaurant" and joked about all the students studying for exams in Irving Street coffee shops. Brown quipped, "I asked them, 'Do you not have kitchens in your apartments?'

"It's amazing how involved people in this city are," Brown gushed. "Today, people were telling me they don't want cars in Golden Gate Park and who should and shouldn't be on commissions. It's amazing."

According to Noe Valley's Hauptman, "Brown is trying to make himself as visible to neighborhoods as possible since he hasn't spent much time visiting neighborhoods in the past. He hasn't really been challenged in a campaign for some time. He's captured 60 to 70 percent of the vote for many years."

"I'm trying to learn about the city," Brown told his hosts, "but not just by attending house parties like this one. I've been talking to the Health Department. I've met with [City Attorney] Louise

Renne's group, and I've met with [District Attorney] Arlo Smith. I've met with the Police and Fire departments and Muni. I've been meeting with everybody under the sun, trying to get an answer to the question, 'Can I win, and after I win, can I govern?'"

Brown pointed out that winning an election was a lot easier than getting the support needed to govern the city once you're elected.

"This is an amazing city, but the Board of Supervisors and the mayor don't live in the same world. If I run and am elected, I would instantly start developing a relationship with the Board of Supervisors. And there won't be any back-scratching. One person should lead this town with a consortium of support. This is what the town and its citizens want. I want to run for the mayorship. I am convinced I can win, but I'm not convinced that I can govern at the level of the needs and expectations of the city."

As he progressed in his speech, though, Brown became more unequivocal. "I've made the decision," he said. "I want to run. Now, instead of talking me into running, you've got to talk me out of it. Clearly, I believe I can perform greater or equal to anyone that is elected. I will bring some energy and intelligence to the mayor's job."

(A few days after his visit to Noe Valley, Brown showed the city how effective his political prowess might be as mayor when he convinced the State Building Joint Powers Authority to postpone approval of the plans for a \$257 million state office building on McAllister Street. The 16-story building is designed in such a way that it could generate high winds and cast shadows on a nearby plaza where people often go to sit in the sun. The

Board of Supervisors' Land Use Committee had pleaded for a delay so that it could hold public hearings on the matter. Those pleas were ignored until the supervisors enlisted Brown's support.)

Following his informal talk in Noe Valley, Brown took questions from audience members, noting, "I'm not proficient in the city's issues and politics. I've been gone 31 years, and I need to get up on the issues." Seemingly out of the blue, he added, "But one thing I'm sure of is that I will not support the Department of Public Works running PG&E. Bruce Brugmann can keep his endorsement and do what he wants with it." Brugmann, publisher of the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, is a longtime proponent of public ownership of utilities.

Brown also said he was convinced that no candidate could win a majority in the general election. "There will be a runoff, and I would love to be one-on-one with the mayor," he said.

"During the course of the campaign, I will conduct myself in such a way that I'm not running against Achtenberg or Alioto, etc. I am running for the mayorship," Brown said.

"I'd love to talk to the other candidates after the general election about supporting me in the runoff instead of having them be so bitter that they cannot embrace me. I want to conduct my campaign in such a way that this will happen."

Frank Jordan, on the other hand, may take a slightly less polite approach.

According to a May 17 report by *San Francisco Chronicle* columnists Phil Matier and Andy Ross, Jordan faxed a two-page letter to Brown on May 16, stating that his rival's candidacy raised "particularly troubling ethical questions."

Jordan went on to write that Brown's law office "has represented many of San Francisco's most powerful special interests.... Given the length of your client list and the number of powerful local special interests that appear on the list, many are left wondering whether you could govern this city effectively while laboring under a constant ethical cloud."

After passing muster in numerous FBI investigations over the years, however, Brown may be more than adept at tangling with political opponents such as Jordan. As he told *Forum's* Krasny, "My life is more public than any other public official."



Editor's Note: At press time, all signs pointed to June 3 as the day Willie Brown would announce his official candidacy for mayor. Meanwhile, Noe Valley Democrats prepared to welcome another favorite son/daughter to the neighborhood. Mayoral candidate and Hill Street resident Roberta Achtenberg will speak at the Noe Valley Democratic Club meeting on June 14. The meeting will be held in the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 7:30 p.m. Those with questions about the event are invited to contact Club President Rick Hauptman at 647-0549.

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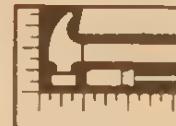
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James Lick On a Roll

By Beverly Tharp

James Lick Middle School, in the heart of Noe Valley at Noe and 25th Streets, is bursting with good news these days.

On May 9, Superintendent Bill Rojas informed Principal Joan Hepperly that the Comprehensive Schools Improvement Program (CSIP) had removed James Lick from the school district's hit list, a list of troubled schools targeted for "reconstitution" (bureaucratese for complete overhaul).

Lick had already been reconstituted once. In 1988 its entire staff was replaced in a last-ditch attempt to turn the school around.

Hepperly, who has been at Lick since 1993, said the school escaped the reorganization this time "because we're fantastic! The whole James Lick community has really been working — the staff, the kids, and the parents — to change the image of James Lick Middle School."

A big part of the transformation, Hepperly pointed out, came as a result of a state-funded "restructuring" program, which was implemented in 1988 in 145 schools statewide. Restructuring changed the way Lick was run by involving committees of parents, students, and staff in group decision-making.

"As principal, I probably make five percent of the decisions," Hepperly said. "The students, parents, and teachers make the rest."

Over the course of 1994, a CSIP committee evaluated James Lick's progress and that of a number of other San Francisco schools where students were failing to make the grade. According to Hepperly, Lick showed the second highest gains in reading scores out of 18 middle schools, and the fifth highest gains in math last year.

"The district also came in this fall and saw what was going on in the classroom and the schoolyard," said Hepperly. "And they liked the programs they saw."

The school climate, she noted, has also improved. "We hope to have very little staff turnover this year, and there's been a reduction in the amount of inappropriate student behaviors—we've reduced the number of fights. James Lick has worked very hard to create a model middle school program that is more exciting, hands-on, and student-centered."

Lick got another boost last month when Holey Bagel, the bagel bakery that's been a fixture on 24th Street since 1979, announced that it was "adopting" the school as part of its community outreach program Breaducation.

On May 10, Marth Becktell, director of community involvement at Holey Bagel, was invited to be principal-for-a-day at Lick, and on May 23 and 24 students participated in "Dough Days," which featured dough-sculpting classes "for students to transform their ideas about



Sixth-graders at James Lick School ponder the question of cool. From left: Lynn Fine, Marisol Murguia, Eliska Ferdinand, Virginia Illa, Priscilla Alejo, and Malea Fuentes.

PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

Letter from a Seventh-Grader

My name is Jesse Fowler and I am one of a minority of Noe Valley kids to attend James Lick and I really like it.

Right now, I'm remembering back to the beginning of sixth grade. Living in Noe Valley, I had heard a lot of bad things about James Lick from neighbors, and my mom had heard them, too. She spent all summer before sixth grade trying to get me out of Lick and into Horace-Mann. And she did it, too....

I was on the enrollment list at Horace-Mann, but at the same time the school district was telling Mom that her appeal was denied. That's why I started school at James Lick. Ten days after school started, my mom got a phone call from the principal of Horace-Mann asking why I wasn't at school. Well, like a rat from a sinking ship, Mom pulled me out of James Lick.

I remember the standoff. I went to Horace-Mann for a day. I didn't want to be there. The next day when Mom drove me to school, I refused to go back. Finally, she drove up the hill and re-enrolled me at Lick.

That was a standoff that paid off... for me and my mom. It's great to be in a neighborhood school. I can walk home,

and I feel really comfortable and independent in my neighborhood.

I hit a few rough spots in sixth grade, but I made friends and liked my teachers. This year, seventh grade, has been really great. Our class has gone kayaking on the Bay. We're involved in a community entrepreneurial program where we work in local businesses. I'm at B.J. Droubi Realty. Maybe I'll learn how to get rich selling houses!

In addition, I've really enjoyed band this year and am looking forward to being in the jazz band next year. The jazz band is good!

This year, some other kids and I were asked to make a presentation when the school district was reviewing the school for reconstitution (when they replace all the faculty and staff). It seems that they were impressed because they took our school off of the probation list.

Everybody's been working hard to make improvements and to change the school's bad reputation. I think it's exciting to be at a school that is moving uphill, rather than going downhill.

Anyway, I am really happy to be at James Lick Middle School.

—Jesse Fowler, 13

themselves, their culture, and their community into sculptures," said Becktell.

In addition to handing out bagels for the students to munch on or take home, Holey Bagel employees also volunteered as tutors, and organized student field trips to the 24th Street store. They also have scheduled more Dough Days this month, as well as some bagel dog-making activities at Holey Bagel's headquarters at Haight and Masonic.

And there's more to the James Lick saga: Out of 107 schools in the city, Lick was chosen as the only one to represent San Francisco on May 17 at a special

recognition program and press conference announcing the donation of \$50 million to Bay Area schools over the next five years by philanthropists William Hewlett and Walter Annenberg.

"Over the last several years," said Hepperly, "it has become apparent that James Lick is really becoming a different school. So when a school had to be selected as a representative for positive school change and reform, James Lick came up.

"This is just the beginning of where we're going," she continued. "James Lick has the potential to be a school people want to come to—the current sixth grade

Do Your Thing— That's Fresh

By Emmie Levine

What's cool at James Lick School? A few inquiring minds here at the *Voice* wanted to know, so we quizzed a group of Lick students, and they were happy to enlighten us.

"First of all," explained sixth-grader Eliska Ferdinand, "if you want to say 'cool,' you say 'tight.' The tightest thing I can think of is *no* homework!"

"The word 'sick' can also mean cool," revealed Keith Bynum, another sixth-grader, "if you're a comedian and very funny."

Baggy clothes are still hip (although the word 'hip' isn't), as are jerseys from NBA teams, plaid shirts and hats, and Nike footwear.

Rose Royce, E-40, the Notorious B.I.G., Da Brat, Boyz II Men, and Totality Insane make totally cool music.

But there's more to cool than meets the eye or ear, according to the James Lick students.

"There are lots of aspects to cool, or what I call 'tight' or 'fresh,'" said Virginia Illa, who also attends sixth grade. "Everyone has their own cool. What's not tight is when someone is fake. Fake is when you make up lies and spread lies about someone at school. *Not* fresh! Then that's *bad* cool, or 'sick' or 'ill.'"

Sixth-grade student Lynn Fine recalled a time when "someone started this thing where you wear rings on each one of your fingers. They came to school with all these rings and started a new fad to be fresh. But I think it's *not* fresh to be a clone and do what everybody else does."

"The thing about being tight," opined Fine's classmate Malea Fuentes, "is that it should only matter to *you* what you wear. You have to please yourself. Clothes do define who you are, but that's just one part of tight. Everyone is different, and it's fresh to do clothes or things your way. Bitin' [copying] is *not* cool."

Seventh-grader Astrid Corvin-Brittin agrees: "Sometimes you have to give in to the cool crowd and think like they do. Imitation is so powerful, you do something everyone knows is cool, so you're cool. I think none of this really matters, though. You don't have to join up."

"The most important thing is that we're young, and this is our time. I want to make it a good time for myself, and not [to please] everyone else."

Cool.



is made up of 55 percent parent-request kids. And there's lots we still want to do."

For information about James Lick, which currently enrolls 565 students in grades sixth, seventh, and eighth, call Principal Joan Hepperly at 695-5675. □



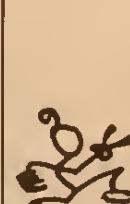
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Police Officer Ed Collins Right at Home On Church St.

By Steve Steinberg

Church Street merchants think they really have their money's worth in Officer Ed Collins, their local beat cop.

In fact, they think so much of Collins that they recently sent a letter of commendation, signed by some 15 store owners, to San Francisco Police Chief Tony Ribera.

"He is there" for local merchants, said Sybil Richards, owner of Lady Sybil's Closet at 1484 Church St.

"Officer Collins has his eyes open all the time. He really knows what's going on in a quiet way," Richards added.

Merchants on the busy street had complained to the Police Department for years that they didn't have a strong enough police presence in the area.

"We'd see the beat cop once or twice and then never see him again," said Mervyn Mark, proprietor of What's for Dessert, across the street from Lady Sybil's at the corner of Church and 27th streets.

"They didn't stick around," Mark said of past beat cops.

But according to the merchants, Collins has changed the relationship between police and shop owners.

"Officer Collins has been very consistent in checking his rounds to see that everything is running right.... He makes merchants feel a lot more comfortable," Mark said.

Collins also makes the merchants feel safer, and business crime has very possibly diminished because of his visibility.

"I feel safer. He comes around very often," said Amy Ho, owner of Royal Cleaners at 1461 Church St.

Royal Cleaners had been robbed three times last year before Collins took over the beat. Then Ho followed some of Collins' suggestions, which included installing a surveillance camera, and the robberies ceased.

And how does Officer Collins feel about his Church Street turf?

"It's the easiest job in the world," he says, adding, "walking the beat has been the most rewarding part of my career."

A 25-year veteran of the force, Collins has been on his present assignment since last August. The beat covers a lot of territory, so it's doubly to Collins' credit that he makes himself available to the Church Street business people as often as he does.

The huge beat starts on Chenery Street in Glen Park and takes in Church and Dolores streets as far as Chavez-Army Street. He also patrols from Diamond Heights to Mission Street.

Collins visits many of the areas in his assignment, however, on an as-needed ba-



Bill and Sybil Richards say there are a lot of happy faces on Church Street, now that Officer Ed Collins patrols the area. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

sis. Though occasionally in a radio car, he patrols mainly on foot.

Collins feels that his 230-pound frame is a major factor in "discouraging the bad guys" from coming into his beat.

"I walk around and talk to people and see if they have anything they want me to look into," he says. "Primarily, the beat man is there [to maintain] the quality of life thing."

To that end, Collins' duties can range from shooing away loiterers lounging on people's steps, to issuing citations to minors drinking on the street or in public parks like Upper Noe Recreation Center (long a trouble spot for underage drinking).

"As a beat cop, I handle a lot of everyday stuff that a police radio car can't address," Collins says.

He adds that he encourages merchants

and residents to get to know one another and "watch out for each other," as a way of preventing crime.

On a more serious note, he speaks proudly of having chased drug dealers in the Mission off the streets and indoors, where they're less conspicuous and less accessible to would-be buyers.

A Twin Peaks resident for the past 23 years, Collins grew up in upper Noe Valley. Getting this beat was thus a little like coming home.

A graduate of the old Polytechnic High School, he joined the force in 1970, after having attended classes at San Francisco City College.

Since Collins' uncle and grandfather had both been police officers, law enforcement was a natural calling.

"It was always something I wanted to do," he says of police work. Collins' ca-

reer instincts proved correct. "You don't get rich, but you don't get bored," he says.

Married 27 years, Collins, 46, has two daughters, one of whom attends St. Philip's School in Noe Valley.

In addition to patrol work, Collins has also taught at the San Francisco Police Academy and has served as an undercover officer.

Collins says he's fairly "comfortable" with current crime statistics in the Church Street—upper Noe Valley area. Home burglaries, store robberies, and street crime are all way down, he maintains.

However, the neighborhood has suffered a rash of car "boosts," or break-ins.

"We're just getting murdered," he says.

Although he's glad to report that there have been several recent arrests of car thieves, he still cautions people to keep their valuables out of sight when leaving their cars unattended.

"Make sure your car is empty," he says. "If there is something in the car that draws a thief's curiosity, he'll go through the car."

Words of wisdom from a police officer trying to make a difference in Noe Valley.

Editor's Note: Just as we were going to press last month, the Voice learned that a 30-year-old man was shot May 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the basketball court area at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day and Sanchez streets. According to preliminary news reports, he was standing near the door of the gym, waiting for a group of friends he had been playing pickup basketball with, when an unidentified man walked up and shot him point-blank in the face. The man's friends ran after the suspect, but he remains at large.

The victim died later, after being taken to San Francisco General Hospital. The Voice will follow up on this case in next month's issue. In the meantime, Officer Collins says if you have any information regarding the crime, please call Homicide inspectors Nick Klimenko or Michael Byrne at 553-1145.

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Therapist Elisabeth Feldman's matchmaking service, Embrazu, takes a "soulful approach" to helping people find a serious relationship. PHOTO BY CHARLES KENNARD

Embrazu—A Matchmaker Made for The '90s

By Jane Underwood

One morning in April of 1994, Noe Valley psychotherapist Elisabeth Feldman woke up with a vision: she saw herself starting a matchmaking service.

"I didn't really want to follow the vision because it seemed absurd," she recalls. "But the more I talked about it with my friends, who are for the most part single, the more I thought there was a need."

Feldman, 38, is single herself—divorced, and the mother of a child. So when her friends waxed enthusiastic, she understood why: she too would appreciate some help in finding a mate.

Her friends also pointed out that she had a knack for bringing people together.

"There is so much synchronicity in my life, so much coincidence, and people do meet around me," Feldman says. "I don't necessarily mean romantic meetings, but I am sort of a nexus for a large group of people—friends, business associates, etc."

I put my antenna up and things happen. I seem to have this capacity to make connections for people. I'm a networker, but it's not even a conscious thing."

Feldman launched her matchmaking service, called Embrazu (a word she coined by combining the English, Italian, Spanish, and French words for "embrace" and "to set fire"), in December.

She sees clients at her Glen Park office and has one employee, also a therapist, who conducts interviews in Marin. As the business grows, she plans to have another interviewer in Marin, another in San Francisco, and two in the East Bay.

The people coming to Embrazu range in age from 30 to 60, and most are in their late 30s and 40s. Seventy-five men and women have signed up so far, in equal numbers.

"That surprised me," Feldman says. "I was worried in the beginning that there would be more women than men. I'd like a bigger pool of clients, though. It takes a lot of people, and we're going for quality over quantity."

Embrazu is also going for "a different population of people"—clients who have a more "alternative" bent than those who traditionally join matchmaking services. Other services, notes Feldman, "tend to pull more mainstream kinds of people."

"I tried them myself," she says, "but I felt like the population of people was not right for me, and I wasn't willing to spend my money. Or I felt like the person doing

the interview couldn't really connect with who I was or what I was looking for."

Embrazu, says Feldman, "speaks to a particular subculture, people who share alternative, progressive, life-affirming values. We take into consideration many dimensions of who you are and what you are looking for in a partner."

She adds that Embrazu is for people—gay or straight—who want serious relationships, "not a dating service."

"I am taking a soulful approach," says Feldman. "I am trying to work with people who are progressive. There are several activist-types who have signed up. They know I'm not trying to start a corporation, that I'm coming from a service orientation, coming at it in a socially responsible way."

"They also know that I'm taking a psychological perspective, that I'm going into depth without categorizing people."

Feldman has been putting flyers and brochures out at places where she imagines such progressive people might be, "such as the California Institute of Integral Studies, New College, KPFA, KQED, Media Alliance, and the Sierra Club."

Noe Valley residents, of course, are also a prime target—precisely the group of professionals, small business people, writers, and human services workers that Feldman would love to ferret out.

Most of Embrazu's respondents, she says, "have some psychological awareness and are looking for a committed,

monogamous relationship. Most have been divorced or have gone through a couple of very significant relationships, and are tired of dating. Many have already checked out the personals ads quite a bit."

Feldman has perused the personals herself, and thinks they're a good way to meet people.

"But it's a rough social environment," she says. "And it's very time-consuming, especially these days when there are so many of them. If you run an ad and you're a woman, you usually get a huge response. Then you have to sift through all these people. And you will probably meet some interesting people."

"But at some point, you get tired. I would go out and get involved with people who were interesting to me—and almost anything is interesting to me because I'm an experience junkie. But now I've run out of the extra energy I needed to do that. What Embrazu does is weed out a lot of people who would be interesting but who really don't fit with what you need."

"Also," she adds, "there's just not a lot you can cover when you write a personals ad, nor is there a lot you can say when you answer one. When you go through Embrazu, you have filled out a questionnaire and interviewed with me, and I have a really full sense of who you are and what you're looking for."

The questionnaire is 20 pages long, and

Continued on Page 17

"Such Succulent Sushi—Fresh From the Sea"
*** Patricia Unterman, San Francisco Chronicle



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My Sweet Embrazu-ble You

Continued from Page 15

asks for the basic stats on age, ethnicity, appearance, and health, as well as more detailed information about interests, education, work and home life, spirituality, political values, and humor. (Humor is one of Feldman's favorite indicators of compatibility, she says, because "it is such an indication of soul!").

After completing the questionnaire, clients write a short bio and find a good recent photo. The bio and photo are eventually given to potential matches; the questionnaire remains confidential.

Then comes the one-hour interview, when Feldman has a chance to put names with faces and to get a truer sense of each person's style, energy, and personality. She uses the time mostly to discuss her client's relationship history.

"We look at what has worked, and what hasn't worked," she says. "What's the pattern in your history? There are things about past relationships that worked, but ultimately they didn't work. So we unpack that."

"Maybe you have been having trouble meeting someone because you have very high expectations—not to say that it's wrong to have those expectations. Or maybe something else is getting in your way. Sometimes we talk about childhood experiences that influenced how one relates."

"One of my intentions is to help people get real. I had one client, a man who was close to 50 years old and had never had a serious relationship. I told him, 'This is more than just not having met the right person. Let's really look at this. Nothing is going to work for you unless you work with this.' So he walked away saying, 'Okay, I have to struggle with something a little bit.'

"The people who show up at my door are generally at least willing to look at themselves. They know I'm a therapist, and so they come relatively open, with a certain vulnerability, even if they're not completely aware of what's been blocking them."

One fairly common block, Feldman says, is perfectionism. Another is romanticism. Both qualities can cause a person to have unrealistically high expectations. Not surprisingly, she observes with a smile, "There are a lot of therapists who have signed up who have extremely high expectations for communication and awareness!"

Then there can be lifestyle issues that throw a monkey wrench into otherwise potentially good matches.

"Kids can be an issue," says Feldman. "For example, someone wants to have a child and they're 40, so they don't want to be with someone who already has children. Or someone is a single parent and doesn't want to be with somebody who is also a single parent."

Such specific requirements may be necessary, but they're also limiting, she warns. "I won't automatically say, 'Oh yeah, we'll find somebody for you, no problem,' which is what a lot of services do. I say instead, 'Okay, here's a problem, and let's be real about that.'

Despite such hurdles, Feldman has still made some matches. One client, she says, was "an East Coast KPFA listener, mid-50s, very neurotic type, but aware of his neuroses—worried about this, worried about that—and he had a great sense of

'At some point, you get tired [of using the personals ads]. I would go out and get involved with people who were interesting to me—and almost anything is interesting to me because I'm an experience junkie. But now I've run out of the extra energy I needed to do that. What Embrazu does is weed out a lot of people who would be interesting but who really don't fit with what you need.'

—Elisabeth Feldman

humor. This man said, 'Frankly, I'm not looking for anybody perfect; I know I'm not perfect. But I am looking for somebody just like me.'"

Feldman matched him with a woman who has a similar personality. "She's late 40s, a fanatic radio listener, comes from New York, and is also a real worrier, but wittily aware of her neuroses. And she's very funny and very warm, too."

What about the notion that opposites attract? Feldman says this combination can also work. She matched one couple

in which "the man worked in a scientific field and tended to be pretty rational. The woman ran her own business but was also an artist, and much more of a feeling-oriented person."

They clicked, she says, despite their personality differences, because "they were both on the same end of the values spectrum." She considers shared values—social, political, spiritual, psychological, and economic—to be of the utmost importance.

In this couple's case, "both came from the upper class and had a refined aesthetic—good food and good art really meant a lot to them. Also, the man came from New England, and he just couldn't escape the desire for New England traditional family values. She came from the Midwest, but also had a very similar value system."

Then again, even if two people's values are perfectly simpatico, there's still no accounting for chemistry. "When I have set people up," Feldman says, "generally one person has liked the other person, but the other person says, 'Well, they're nice but it didn't quite gel.'

"I'm not an expert," she admits, "but nobody really can be an expert doing this. A lot of it is fate—who happens to show up at my service, and at what time."

When all is said and done, she says, "what draws one person to another is a very mysterious and complex thing."

If you would like to find out more about Embrazu, call Elisabeth Feldman at 648-2600. The membership fee is \$150 for two years, plus a one-time \$50 application processing fee. □



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Special thanks to all those who rallied in the eleventh hour.

A very big "thank you" to Elizabeth Madison and Frank Howard Allen Realty for labeling and posting 7,000 large postcards on behalf of the roof campaign.

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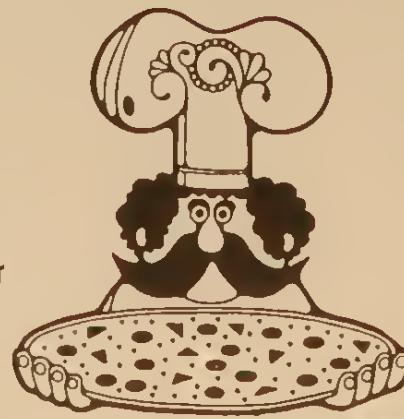
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Molly Lawrence, 1908-1995

By Lisa Labrecque

Noe Valley lost one of its most valuable treasures recently, with the passing of Molly G. Lawrence on May 5, 1995. Molly, who was 86, lived at the corner of 24th and Noe streets for the past 19 years. She was known by everyone who came into contact with her as a kind, generous, and thoughtful person.

Molly moved to San Francisco in 1976, at the age of 67. At the time, the only person she knew in the city was her niece, Joie Huhert, also a longtime resident of Noe Valley.

But over the coming years, Molly got to know many people in and around the city. She reached out to them all—young and old, gay and straight, the homeless, and, of course, her neighbors. She always had an interesting story or anecdote to tell. She remembered everyone she met and everything she heard, and constantly amazed people with her sharpness and wit.

Molly could tell you the history of every storefront along 24th Street—what was there before, and even before

that. She went out daily on her rounds to Bell Market, Thrifty and Walgreen's, the post office, and the bank.

Until she quit smoking a few years ago, she bought her cigarettes at Caruso's wine shop. She shopped for cards and gifts at Just for Fun, and she dined regularly at Panos'. In fact, the only access to some of the equipment in back of the restaurant was through Molly's bedroom window.

Molly's life story is amazing. She was a woman way ahead of her time. She did things that women just didn't do in the early to mid-1900s.

Born in Wellesley, Massachusetts, in 1908, she spent most of her childhood years in Louisville, Kentucky, and Chicago. Her mother died in the encephalitis epidemic of the 1920s, when Molly was just 12 years old.

She attended college at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and graduated in 1930 with a bachelor of science degree in chemistry.

Molly worked as a pharmaceutical researcher, and then as a medical copywriter. Her work took her to New York City during World War II, where she met and married her first husband, Ted Armstrong. He went off to war and they divorced upon his return.

Molly then moved to Philadelphia, where she met her second husband, Bill Lawrence, to whom she was married for three years until his death.

In Philly (as Molly called it), she made a career switch and went to work

for the American Red Cross in communications. After 14 years, at age 63, she moved to Los Angeles to care for her ailing 100-year-old stepmother, "Aunt Lou." She looked after Aunt Lou until her stepmother's death four years later. Then Molly moved to San Francisco.

Molly said that the years she spent in San Francisco were the happiest of her life. She had many friends and loved going to the ballet, opera, and symphony. She also attended numerous fundraising events, where she gave her financial support to dozens of organizations. The organizations closest to her heart were those benefiting the gay and lesbian community, AIDS causes, and animals.

But Molly's greatest gift was her friendship, her heart of gold. She loved life, she loved people, and she gave her love freely. Her wisdom, insight, clarity, and good humor helped a lot of people over the years.

I met Molly 10 years ago when I moved into the flat above hers. At first she was just my neighbor, but she quickly became a friend. When I had known her for about six months, she came to my rescue during a personal crisis, and we grew very close.

Over the years she offered me unwavering love and support no matter what the circumstances. Most of my friends got to know her, as did my family, even my business associates. I've changed a lot in the past 10 years, and I am proud to say that Molly had a pro-



Molly Lawrence, a beloved friend and neighbor (and a frequent diner at Panos' Restaurant), died May 5 at the age of 86. PHOTO COURTESY LISA LABRECQUE

found effect on shaping who I have become. Molly was more than a close friend. She was my mentor.

A memorial service will be held at Bethany Methodist Church, at the corner of Sanchez and Clipper streets, on Friday, June 9, at 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come and join in celebrating Molly's life. □



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POLICE B E A T

Robberies Decline To 2 in April

By Officer Lois Perillo

Reported robberies on my Noe Valley beat dropped to two for the month of April (down from seven recorded during the month of March).

On April 13 at about 7:30 p.m., a male suspect entered a busy 24th Street store and waited until the store was clear of customers before attempting to rob the worker of money by simulating a gun. However, the suspect was foiled when the worker demanded to see the gun. Although I arrived at the store within one minute of dispatch, the robber already had fled with stolen candy and cigarettes.

The second robbery occurred at a laundromat near 24th and Guerrero on April 18 at 9:30 p.m.

The 25-year-old male suspect asked the 70-year-old male worker to change a \$50. When the worker said he was unable to make change, he walked toward the back of the business and was followed by the first suspect, who was then joined by a second man.

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The first man punched the worker in the face, cutting his lip, and stole his wallet while the second man brandished a small handgun. Both suspects fled east toward Valencia Street.

An officer at Mission Station reported that there were three witnesses to different parts of the incident. Inspector Gary Fredrick is handling the case.

Some Muggings Are Grand Theft

Another crime against a person is classified as "grand theft/wallet or purse snatch." Unlike robbery, which requires force or fear to complete its legal definition, grand theft of a wallet or purse (a felony) usually occurs so quickly and with such surprise that the targeted person is not in fear during the crime.

Those targeted often experience fear and anger afterward.

A 30-year-old woman was targeted in a grand theft on April 12 nearing 5 p.m., while she walked north on Sanchez approaching Liberty Street. The 26-year-old male suspect ran up to her from behind, grabbed her shoulder bag, then continued running north on Sanchez and east on Liberty to a waiting brown car.

In the second reported grand theft, a 54-year-old man was approached while he was washing his car window in the 24th Street parking lot between Castro and

Noe by a 30-year-old man who asked if he could help. But when the older man removed his wallet to give the younger man a dollar, the suspect grabbed the older man's money and ran.

The victim became very confused, which prompted an ambulance response and the man's transportation to San Francisco General Hospital for evaluation.

A Case of Aggravated Assault

A 35-year-old man who was moving out of his residence on the 600 block of Clipper Street on April 3 at about 9 p.m. was attacked by a 31-year-old male acquaintance, who sent the targeted man to the hospital with a broken leg, black eye, swollen lip, and back pain.

According to the resident, he and the suspect were involved in a monetary dispute. During the attack, which happened on the street, the suspect repeated, "Where's my money?" and riled through the targeted man's pockets searching for money. The suspect fled in a vehicle, and the targeted man was taken by witnesses to the hospital, where officers later met him to make the report.

Nasty Man at Walgreen's

The 37-year-old man who stole from Walgreen's, threatened a worker, and vandalized the store was taken into custody

on the district attorney's warrant specific to this case. On May 2 he pled guilty to misdemeanor vandalism and was sentenced to 90 days' suspended sentence, 13 days of community service, and 18 months' probation. As of the sentencing day, he had served 13 days in jail and was given credit for time served.

Another Gotcha

Some of you may have seen my latest crime alert poster featuring two suspects. The recent alert came about when Ingleside Officer Jerry Nietz (formerly a heat cop in the Mission District) sent me a photo of a man and an account of his exposing behavior. I coupled that photo with one of a known shoplifter from our neighborhood and produced the flyer.

Well, a worker at the Safeway Store at Mission and 30th spotted the flyer and recognized the woman, who walked into Safeway and stole another woman's handbag from a shopping cart as the worker watched from above. The worker detained the thief, and guess who responded to take custody of her? Officer Nietz.

Till next time, be safe and see you on patrol. □

Officer Lois Perillo is a community police officer working out of Mission Police Station, 630 Valencia St. Her beat centers on 24th Street and extends from 21st and Grand View to Chavez-Army and Valencia streets. To contact her, call the station at 558-5400.

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Shopping Is Scenic on Church Street. PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP.



JUST AROUND THE CORNER



St. Paul's Parish

221 Valley Street
San Francisco, CA 94131
(415) 648-7538

June, 1995

Dear Noe Valley Neighbors and Friends:

Maybe you've read the news somewhere, heard it on the radio, over the backyard fence or from the guy on the barstool next to you:

"St. Paul's is closing. Isn't that a shame?"

Well, it surely would be a shame—if it were true. But, happily for us and the rest of Noe Valley, it isn't. St. Paul's has been through a tough couple of years all right, and we definitely have our work cut out for us in the next few years ahead. But, as a Church, a pre-school and elementary school, as a parish and a community center, we are very much "open for business" and plan to stay that way.

As we said at our recent 115th anniversary celebration, we are ready to start our next 115 years.

While the rest of America got to know St. Paul's through the movie "Sister Act," most Noe Valley residents know us from our green twin spires that rise high from Church and Valley streets and can be seen for miles around the southern edge of San Francisco.

Many of you worship with us at daily and weekend Mass. Some of you—Catholic and non-Catholic—have entrusted your children to our Littlest Angels Pre-School or to the talented faculty and staff of St. Paul's Elementary School (temporarily located a few blocks from the parish at 23rd and Fair Oaks streets). Some of you avail yourselves of the many community services we offer, among them, weekly Alcohol Anonymous meetings and scheduled, low-cost family counseling.

Despite the huge task ahead—for we must raise nearly \$6 million to seismically retrofit our Church and school—St. Paul's intends to go right on doing what we have done for 115 years in Noe Valley: provide a vital center for spiritual and social health and growth and serve as an anchored institution in our ever-changing neighborhood.

So, the next time our name comes up in conversation, please pass the word: "St. Paul's doors are open wide and, inside, it is business as usual."

God Bless You,

Rev. Mario P. Farana

Rev. Mario P. Farana, Pastor

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SHORT TAKES

Quilt May Have Bugs

Twenty-six parents at the Noe Valley Nursery School have put the finishing stitches in their 1995 quilt, which will be raffled off June 16 in Douglass Park, at the school's potluck graduation ceremony.

The brightly colored quilt measures 6 by 7 feet, and has an interesting theme this year: insects.

"As usual," says the co-op's director, Nina Youkelson, "the quilt is not only beautiful, but also an example of how people can together create a wonderful work of art."

The tapestry will be on display in the window at Cover to Cover Booksellers until June 10. You can buy your raffle ticket (\$1 each or 6 for \$5) there or at the nursery school, located in the Noe Valley Ministry at 1021 Sanchez St.

For more information about the raffle or the preschool—now's the time to get your 2- to 3-year-old on the waiting list for fall openings—call 647-2278.

Chimes of Freedom

Bethany Methodist Church will come alive with the sounds of music this month when it hosts two concerts, one instrumental and one vocal.

On June 13 at 8:15 p.m., the church will present a free concert by the San Francisco Winds of Freedom, which is the "seated" version of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band.

Says the band's artistic director, Nancy Corporon, "Winds of Freedom is a great vehicle for building bridges not only between the lesbian/gay community and the straight community, but also between lesbians and gay men."

"In the hand," she adds, "everything is about music. People are communicating on an entirely different level. Music is very, very powerful."

On June 24 and 25, the lesbian/gay octet Inspiration, under the direction of Gregg Tallman, will perform a cappella chants, as well as classical and folk pieces.

The program begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$7 to \$12 at the door.

Bethany Church is located at the cor-



Litter Clean-up Day, a joint project of the Noe Valley Merchants Association and Friends of Noe Valley, dawned damp and foggy April 29, but the broom brigade marched triumphantly down 24th Street, led by Friend Eleanor Gearhart (shown dispensing coffee) and Little Italy's J.P. Gillen (wielding a garbage bag). PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

ner of Sanchez and Clipper streets.

Your Neighborhood Novelist

Castro Street resident Ruthanne Lum McCunn will treat residents to a free reading from her new historical novel, *Wooden Fish Songs*, on Wednesday, June 14, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St.

The book is based on the true story of Lue Gim Gong, an immigrant from rural China who, at the end of the 19th century, gave up country and family to pursue his passion for botany in Massachusetts and Florida. Gong's tale is told through the voices of three women, each of whom influenced his life: his mother, a New England spinster, and a woman who was the daughter of slaves.

McCunn, whose mother was a Chinese tourist who married McCunn's Scottish-American father, was born in 1947 across the street from the Chinatown Library. She attended school in Hong Kong, and has written prolifically about her Chinese-American heritage.

She is also the author of two other fiction books—the novel *A Thousand Pieces of Gold* (which was made into a film) and the children's picture book *Pie-Biter*.

She has written several non-fiction books as well, including *An Illustrated History of the Chinese in America* and *Sole Survivor*, an account of Poon Lin, the man who holds the Guinness world record for survival at sea.

Following the reading, autographed copies of *Wooden Fish Songs* will be on sale.

Rosenbergs' Son Speaks

On June 16, 1953, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were executed following their conviction for conspiracy to transmit the secret of the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union. One of their two sons, Robert Meeropol, who was 6 at the time, went on to establish the Rosenberg Fund for Children as a memorial to his parents, who maintained until the end that they were innocent.

On Friday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m., Meeropol, who has authored a book based on his childhood, *We Are Your Sons*, will speak at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. He will discuss his traumatic experience as an orphan of the Cold War, and his efforts to help children who suffer a similar fate. In addition, local actors Erica Sodus and Eric Schniewind will present a reading of the Rosenbergs' prison correspondence with their sons.

Event organizers are asking a donation of \$10 (\$5 for students) to benefit the Rosenberg Fund, which gives grants to needy children whose parents have been persecuted for their political activities.

On June 17 at 8 p.m., Meeropol, who contends that his mother and father were framed, will speak at the Socialist Action Bookstore, 3425 Cesar Chavez St. (Army). He will re-examine the evidence against his parents—in light of new evidence released as a result of his successful suit against the FBI and CIA—and the relevancy of their case for the '90s.

For further information call 824-8113.

Summer in the Parks

The school year ends on June 21, and when the kids tumble out of their classrooms and into the streets looking for fun, two Noe Valley park programs will be waiting to serve them.

At the Upper Noe Recreation Center at Day and Sanchez streets, summer activities, available on a drop-in basis, begin the first week of July and continue through August. Toddlers to teens can choose from a slew of San Francisco Recreation and Park classes, including Tiny Tots and Kid's Gym for the 1 to 3 crowd, plus every sport (from softball to whiffleball) and game (how about "Funatics"?) imaginable, as well as art (jewelry-making) and dance (hip-hop is happenin') for kids 5 and up.

There are some adult offerings too, including co-ed volleyball, softball, and trampoline classes.

Recreation Director Chris Borg adds that weekly field trips are also on the agenda—to Santa Cruz, Marine World, Waterworld, and Great America.

You can pick up a complete class schedule at the Rec Center. It's open Monday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Call 695-5011 for more information.

Douglass Park, at 25th and Douglass streets, will also be a Rec and Park haven for kids this summer. The children's playground will host drop-in activities weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Director Steve Bell and Assistant Director Rontenette Scott oversee volleyball, basketball, tennis, cooking, and arts and crafts. Each day's schedule of activities varies depending on the ages and wishes of the kids who participate.

Bell and Scott also supervise a year-round latchkey program for 25 children, ages 6 to 12. This program includes field trips, tutoring, reading, and educational and entertainment videos, in addition to sports and games.

The summer portion of the latchkey program has been filled, since most children who enrolled during the school year continue through the summer. However, Bell encourages interested parents to give him a call—drop-in space is sometimes available. The number at Douglass Park is 695-5017.

This month's Short Takes were written by Jane Underwood and Michele Lynn.

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Ted Fang's Independent Streak Runs Deep

By Steve Steinberg

When Ted Fang was a teenager growing up in San Francisco, he vowed he would never follow in his father's footsteps and become a newspaper man.

"It was a lot of work and no money," Fang says of his father's profession.

Eventually, however, Fang changed his mind. Today his Independent Newspaper Group controls eight community newspapers in San Francisco and the Peninsula, with a combined circulation of over 300,000.

The group's flagship paper is the free, three-times-a-week, home-delivered *San Francisco Independent*, which styles itself as "San Francisco's Community Newspaper."

Not afraid of taking on the big boys of journalism, the *S. F. Independent*, in its brief eight-year existence, has sued both the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *San Francisco Examiner* for unfair business practices.

A graduate of Lowell High School and U.C. Berkeley—and a Noe Valley resident for the past eight years (he lives on Chavez-Army Street)—the softspoken Fang, 32, has an overriding commitment to providing the public with local news.

Fang maintains that San Franciscans are as much interested in neighborhood news as they are in national or world affairs—perhaps more so.

"People are looking for news outlets having to do with their day-to-day lives," he says. "They want to know about their garbage rates going up. They want to know about that sinkhole on their block."

The large dailies, such as the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner*, do not always offer in-depth community coverage, Fang says. A newspaper like the *Chronicle* sees itself as a regional publication, rather than an exclusively San Francisco paper, Fang explains. "And that's where we come in."

Fang is also proud of the way the *Independent* has been able to influence local news, not just report it.

Two years ago, his paper did a story on the use of lead paint on the Golden Gate Bridge. According to Fang, the piece disclosed that residue from lead paint, sprayed on and sanded off the bridge, was drifting into nearby residential areas.

Thanks to the story, Fang says, the Golden Gate Bridge District not only stopped the practice of using lead-based paint, but cleaned up the areas that had been contaminated.

Fang also cites the *Independent*'s continuing coverage of the frequent crises in the city's housing projects as another example of the type of intensive local journalism this award-winning paper offers.

Journalism Roots in China

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Ted Fang acquired the *Independent*, a newspaper delivered to San Francisco doorsteps three times a week, in 1987 at the age of 24.

story of an Asian immigrant family with strong community values.

Although Ted Fang was born in San Francisco, his father, John, and his mother, Florence, both emigrated to the United States from China in the 1950s. John Fang was a journalist in pre-Communist China, working for a newspaper in Shanghai.

After the Communist takeover in 1949, the elder Fang fled with the remnants of the Nationalist government to Taiwan, where he worked for a government-controlled newspaper.

Fang actually knows very little about his father's life in China, or about any of his father's relatives who were left behind.

"My father never talked about his life in China," Fang says.

His mother was more forthcoming, and the Fangs eventually were able to bring some of her relatives to this country.

Fang, who speaks Mandarin but doesn't read or write Chinese, has tried to grapple with his heritage. "I think of myself as an Asian, but how do I keep in contact with my roots?"

Fang's older brother, James, recently renewed his Chinese connections by marrying the daughter of the mayor of Shanghai. Ted Fang remains single.

Printing Company a Plus

Settling in the United States, Fang's father began his pursuit of the American dream with \$200 in savings. He used that money to take over the operation of Grant Printing Company, a small printing business on Sacramento Street in Chinatown.

The investment was to prove critical to the family's success, eventually enabling Ted Fang to create and expand his community newspaper chain.

"You have to have a printing company first if you want to start a newspaper," Fang says.

Initially, however, Grant Printing only produced invitations, tourist guides, and greeting cards. The company's involvement in newspapers would come later.

In the meantime, the elder Fang returned to his former career in journalism, working for and eventually publishing the *Young China Daily News*, an organ of the Taiwanese government in San Francisco.

In the late 1970s, the senior Fang left the *Young China Daily News* to found *Asian Week*, the

English-language newspaper that is still an important force in the Bay Area's Asian-American community.

By the time Fang was ready for college, he was thoroughly steeped in an atmosphere of professional journalism. "I was very aware of growing up in a newspaper family," he recalls.

While outwardly rejecting his father's career path, Fang was also aware of a certain sense of duty to the community that came with having a newspaper in the family. "I began to see the wisdom of what my dad was trying to do with *Asian Week*."

Fang entered the University of California as a pre-med student, but quickly changed to an ethnic studies major, which, he says, taught him "critical thinking about the way things are and what we can do about them."

Upon graduation in 1983, Fang found himself in a position not unlike that of many other young college graduates.

"I felt enlightened, but now what am I going to do?"

A Newspaper Owner at 24

At about this same time, Fang's mother, who had been running Grant Printing, decided to go into the restaurant business—the family owns the Grand Palace Restaurant on Grant Avenue—leaving a gap at the printing company.

The timing proved fortunate for Fang, who needed a channel for his energies. He agreed to help manage Grant Printing while trying to figure out his future plans.

During his tenure at Grant, he expanded and modernized the company, buying an offset printing press, which was more suitable for producing newspapers.

Grant Printing was printing only one newspaper at the time, the *Young China Daily News*, his father's old paper. Fang reasoned the company could enhance its profits and reputation by printing other publications as well.

Soon the company was servicing several other newspapers, including a small community tabloid circulating in the Sunset and Richmond districts—the *Independent*.

Operating out of a flat on West Portal Avenue, the *Independent* was only moderately successful. By 1987 the paper's owner did not have as much heart for the

Independent as she once had, and according to Fang, also owed money to Grant Printing for her printing bills.

The timing was again key for Fang. After four years of running Grant Printing, he was restless and looking for a new outlet. The *Independent* had the potential to provide him with a sense of purpose. "I didn't look at it as a risk. I thought this might be something I might like to do with my life," he reflects.

Fang settled his client's debt with Grant Printing, and gave her cash as well, for her remaining stake in the *Independent*. He now had his own newspaper.

For a couple of months the paper continued publication out of the West Portal flat. Then Fang moved the operation to a converted house on Taraval Street, where the paper experienced most of its growing pains.

Looking back on the early days of the *Independent*, Fang is somewhat incredulous as to how he held the paper together. "I don't know quite how we did it."

After all, printing newspapers is one thing. Running your own publication is something quite different—especially when you're 24 years old and have had no experience.

Fang says that not having to start from scratch, as well as having a dedicated staff, definitely helped. "They really wanted to make it work," he says of his employees.

But he also had a lot of staff turnover in those days, because he couldn't afford to pay high salaries.

Fang's newspaperman father also gave him advice—"mainly to close the paper down," Fang says half-kiddingly. But once the *Independent* began achieving success, the elder Fang gave his son his approval.

Vanquishing the Progress

It didn't take long for the newly formed *Independent* to lock horns with the city's other newspaper powers.

The first opponent was the *San Francisco Progress*, San Francisco's only other citywide neighborhood newspaper.

Initially Fang did not see the *Independent* as being able to compete with the *Progress*, which he viewed as too big and well established for his paper.

"We only went after the small advertisers so as not to appear as a threat to the *Progress*—which was perhaps naive on my part."

But then Fang tried to assert his newspaper by going after the city's lucrative public notices contract—the right to print all notices related to city business—something the *Progress* had had control of since 1974, Fang says.

The *Independent* actually underbid the *Progress* for the contract when it came up for renewal, but the *Progress* still managed to hang on to the notices by flexing its political muscle, Fang says.

The *Independent*'s attempt to undercut it sent the *Progress* "ballistic," according to Fang. He says the paper retaliated by launching scathing personal editorials against him and his family.

Then, just as suddenly as the war between the two papers began, it ended. By December of 1988 the *Progress* had folded, beset by legal and financial problems.

The *Independent* immediately filled the vacuum, going from tabloid size to

Continued Next Page

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Independent Publisher

Continued from Previous Page

full-size broadsheet, and doubling its circulation in one week.

The public response to the *Progress's* replacement was everything Fang had hoped for. "The public loved it."

Fang notes that one of the ways he encouraged public support was by printing every letter the *Independent* received, a practice he continues to this day.

He also acquired several popular columnists to titillate his readers, among them Jack Rosenbaum from the *Progress* and Warren Hinckle from the *Examiner*.

Although the *Independent* is a free newspaper, its financial survival has little to do with its newsstand price—or lack of it.

Today most newspapers depend almost entirely on paid advertising to ensure their economic health. And the competition for a share of the advertising pie can be fierce.

Almost as soon as it had replaced the *Progress* as a citywide community newspaper, the *Independent* found itself in another newspaper war, this time over advertising dollars.

No Friend of the Examiner

Fang charged that the San Francisco Newspaper Agency, which sells advertising space for both the *Chronicle* and the *Examiner*, had deliberately scaled their rates back to attract advertising customers that had formerly been with the *San Francisco Progress* and which the *Independent* had hoped to inherit.

Fang said the newspaper agency especially wanted the very profitable business of the grocery chains, which had traditionally listed their weekly specials in the *Progress*.

Finding it difficult to compete, the *Independent* sued the S.F. Newspaper Agency and the *Chronicle* and *Examiner*, alleging unfair business practices.

The suit dragged on for a couple of years, until Fang reluctantly settled out of court in 1991. His father, who had pushed for a settlement, died that year, and Fang resolved the suit out of respect for his father's wishes.

With the lawsuit behind him, Fang and the *Independent* prospered. Circulation grew to over 200,000 in San Francisco. Now that the *Progress* was no more, the paper was able to capture the public notices contract from the city.

Fang also moved the staff and equipment of the *Independent* to a modern, two-building, 35,000-square-foot facility on Evans Avenue in the Bayshore District.

Two years ago, partly at the urging of some of his advertisers who had locations there, Fang bought seven community newspapers on the Peninsula from the *Chicago Tribune*, which had been planning to close the newspapers down.

The purchase increased the overall circulation of the *Independent* newspapers to 370,000. It also contributed to the Fang family's emerging political clout. (Fang is the only non-Caucasian member of the board of directors of the California Newspaper Publishers Association.)

In 1990 Ted Fang's brother James Fang



San Francisco Independent publisher Ted Fang, who lives on Cesar Chavez-Army Street, plans to establish a journalism scholarship at San Francisco State University in honor of his late father, John Fang, founder of Asian Week. PHOTO BY TOM WACHS

was elected as a member of the BART board of directors (he was reelected last November).

In 1991 the *Independent* backed Mayor Frank Jordan in his bid for election. According to Ted Fang, the paper helped swing the city's Asian vote to Jordan, and the Asian vote made the difference.

Perhaps as a reward for that help, Mayor Jordan appointed James Fang as his director of commerce and trade for San Francisco.

But in 1992 James Fang was accused of padding his resume in order to gain his job in the mayor's office. The story played out on the front page of the *Examiner*, with controversy raging as to whether James should be forced to resign.

Ted Fang maintains that the *Examiner* greatly inflated the resume incident. "The *Examiner* put it on the front page for five days in a row," Fang says angrily.

The *Examiner* also made it appear as if Ted went to Mayor Jordan and told him he could not fire his brother because of the political debt he owed the Fangs.

Fang denies trying to strongarm Jordan, saying only that he and his brother "discussed" the issue with the mayor.

In the end James Fang kept his job, staying on for three years (he resigned in late April, 1995, in order to spend more time with his new wife in Shanghai). But Ted Fang remains embittered. He now accuses the *Examiner* and William Randolph Hearst III, the former publisher, of having waged a "vendetta" against him, his family, and the newspaper.

Phil Bronstein, the managing editor of the *Examiner* and a close associate of Will Hearst, denies that any such feud between the *Examiner* and the *Independent* exists.

He called the *Examiner's* coverage of the James Fang incident an "appropriate story to do." He also characterized the *Independent's* lawsuits against the *Examiner* as a business dispute at the publishers' level," adding, however, that the success

or failure of the *Independent* "did not really affect Will Hearst."

Bronstein, while disavowing any vendetta between the two papers, pointed out that the *Independent*, along with other local papers, had been highly critical of the *Examiner*.

Bronstein also said that he had a "great appreciation for community newspapers" like the *Independent*.

Fang Resarts ta Ballat

If relations between the *Independent* and the *Examiner* were testy after the James Fang affair, it was nothing compared to the fireworks that were to follow.

Since the demise of the *Progress*, the *Independent* had been the almost exclusive holder of the city's public notices contract.

But in 1993 the *Examiner* decided to make a play for the notices (worth several hundred thousand dollars a year in fees paid by the city).

According to Fang, when the contract came up for renewal in July of that year, the *Examiner* underbid the *Independent* by 50 percent, actually selling the space below cost in order to take the contract away from the *Independent*.

The *Independent* immediately cried foul, charging unfair business practices and predatory pricing.

Fang also alleged that the *Examiner* could not adequately fulfill the terms of the contract since only one in 10 San Francisco residents received the paper at home. Besides, the paper was not free to the public.

"The public won't know about the notices if no one sees them," Fang argued.

The *Independent*, on the other hand, Fang told the Board of Supervisors, delivered 200,000 papers to city residents' doorsteps three times a week (the contract required that the newspaper publish a minimum of three times weekly). What's more, it was free.

Fang says he was on the verge of winning his case before the board when Will Hearst personally intervened and pressured the supervisors into awarding the contract to the *Examiner*.

Now it was Fang's turn to go ballistic. The *Independent* not only sued the *Examiner* and the San Francisco Newspaper Agency again (a suit that has yet to be settled), but the Fangs gathered enough signatures to place an initiative on the ballot that would change the criteria for awarding the public notices contract.

Proposition J, which was put before the voters in last November's election, stated that such factors as a newspaper's circulation, its cost to the public, and whether it was minority-owned had to be considered along with the bid.

Although it was argued that Fang was being egregiously self-serving in putting Prop. J on the ballot—since it was obvious that only the *Independent* would qualify for the award under the measure's provisions—the publisher nonetheless felt completely justified in doing what he did.

"The concept of free public notices is very important.... I feel I had a mission to our advertisers and to our readers," Fang insists.

Despite what Fang says were renewed personal attacks by the *Examiner*, particularly against Jack Davis, the controversial political consultant who served as Prop. J's campaign manager, the measure was approved by 56 percent of the voters.

The *Examiner* still has the public notices contract, but Fang is confident the *Independent* will get it back at its next renewal.

Ted Fang is also very confident about his newspaper and what it has accomplished. But he's not complacent. He knows there is always more work to be done: this fall the *Independent* will establish a journalism scholarship at San Francisco State University in honor of John Fang.

But right now Fang has no expansionist plans for the *Independent*, except for adding a few extra pages here and there.

The *Independent* is also hedging its bets politically, biding its time about endorsing a candidate for this fall's mayoral election.

Fang is not particularly worried about any possible competition, like the new citywide community paper the *City Voice*. "We welcome any vehicles that offer the neighborhoods a voice."

Speaking of voices, he's always been very comfortable with the *Noe Valley Voice*. "It's carved a real niche for itself in this neighborhood."

As for Ted personally, well, he's ready to relax a bit, hanging out more at some of his favorite Noe Valley eateries—like Bacco and Bamey's.

He also plans to indulge in some self-reflection.

"I want to take this year to really think of what I want to do, to think about things more. It's time for a time-out."



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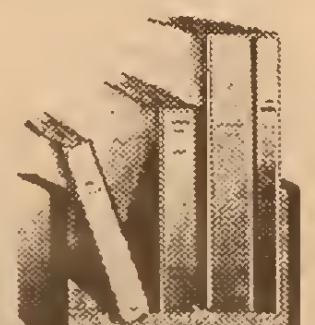
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Debby Jeffery, Children's Librarian, Dies

By Roberta Greifer
Head Librarian, Noe Valley Branch

Debby Jeffery, a popular children's librarian who worked at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Branch Library from 1984 to 1989, died April 30 at Davies Medical Center, three days short of her 44th birthday.

Debby, who suffered from a congenital heart condition, had been hospitalized for a week and a half due to heart palpitations and an irregular heartbeat. Doctors were attempting to stabilize her heartbeat when she died.

Debby always knew she might not live long, having struggled with her medical disability for many years. However, her physical condition seemed to deteriorate this past summer, following the June 14 death of her mother, to whom she was very close.

When Debby Jeffery arrived at the Noe Valley Library in late 1984, the branch had been without a children's librarian for almost a year. Luckily for Noe Valley residents, Debby's arrival coincided with Noe Valley's post-'70s

baby boom, and Debby immediately saw to it that children's services became a highly visible and permanent fixture at the branch.

Debby's many accomplishments while serving as children's librarian included the introduction of the "lapsit" program for Noe Valley's infants and toddlers, a popular Wednesday night event that continues to this day.

Debby left the Noe Valley Branch in December of 1989, when she was promoted to head librarian at the Anza Branch. In addition to working at the Noe and Anza branches, Debby, who was raised in Contra Costa County and attended Antioch High School, worked in the science department and children's room of the Main Library and at the Excelsior and Potrero branches.

Her last assignment was in the Office of Children's Services, where her duties included overseeing the children's programming throughout the library system. Debby had been with the San Francisco Public Library since 1981.

A longtime Potrero Hill resident, Debby was an avid collector of Beatrix Potter books and memorabilia, and rare children's books. She attended many children's book signings, where she often "insisted" that the autographed book be dedicated to one of her two cats.

In the library world, Debby is best known for training (along with fellow librarian Ellen Mahoney) the children's librarians in her innovative lapsit pro-

gram, which features storytelling, finger games, songs, and rhymes. Debby, who played folk guitar, was a natural troubadour, especially when it came to kids. A book she has written, *Literate Beginnings: Programs for Babies and Toddlers*, will be published by the American Library Association in July.

An example of Debby's dedication to children, as well as her quirky sense of humor, is the celebration of Peter Rabbit's 100th birthday that she co-hosted with Children's Librarian Barbara VanderBorgh at the Excelsior Library in June 1993. Debby sent birthday invitations to the children living in the Excelsior District, and also bought a carrot cake to share in Peter Rabbit's honor.

Her first day at the Noe Valley Library happened to be Halloween, so she dressed in a cat costume, complete with swinging tail. "On the bus, people gave me uncertain looks when I explained that I was going to my new job," she recalled for an interview in the February 1990 *Voice*.

My own most vivid memory of Debby at the Noe Valley Branch was the time a puppy managed to break loose from his leash and run upstairs into the big reading room. While several large men and library staffers frantically scrambled after the puppy in an attempt to trap him, Debby calmly grabbed some library twine and with one deft twirl of her homemade lasso captured the hysterical dog.



Debby Jeffery had a goofy sense of humor and once lassoed a dog that had scampered into the Noe Valley Library.

PHOTO COURTESY ROBERTA GREIFER

A memorial service for Debby Jeffery and a celebration of her forthcoming book will be held at the Potrero Library in July. Call the Potrero Branch, 695-6640, for the time and date of the event.

Roberta Greifer worked with Debby Jeffery at the Noe Valley Library from June 1987 until Debby's departure in December 1989.

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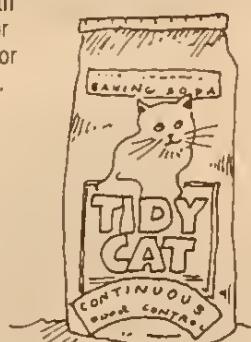


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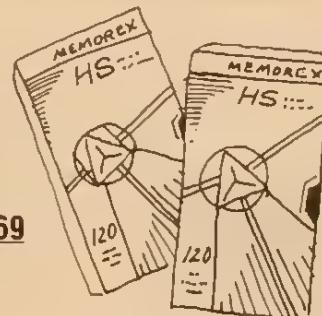


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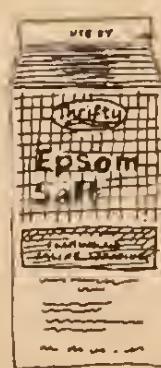


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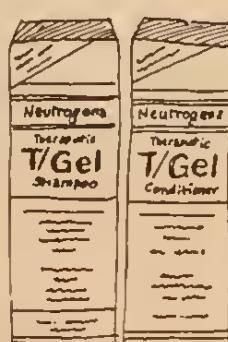


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AUNT HERMIONE'S KITCHEN

Food for Thought

By Ruthama Veltfort

Aunt Hermione came back from her stroll on 24th Street in a mood as foul as the weather was fair.

"That's going to be the last time I go there on a weekend," she said wearily. "It seems like everyone in San Francisco is out there drinking their coffee and blocking the sidewalk. Why, it's getting to be as bad as Times Square in New York, only at least there people keep their clothes on."

I was alarmed. "Whatever do you mean, Aunt Hermione?"

She snorted. "I'm no prude, but half the people I saw looked like they were wearing underwear. It's not always so nice to look at, you know."

"If you mean those tight shorts, I think those are exercise clothes," I offered timidly.

She shook her head. "I may be a little old-fashioned, but it doesn't look the least bit like exercise to me. They are just hanging around, lounging in doorways and sitting on the sidewalk and drinking coffee."

I couldn't really blame her for being annoyed. I'd had a few experiences myself with the sidewalk-blockers. "Well, you're home now," I offered. "Why don't you sit down and relax, and I'll make us some tea."

As I went into the kitchen to put the kettle on to boil, Aunt Hermione sat down in her favorite chair at our dining room table. But she was not about to relax.

"People seem to have forgotten every principle of consideration and good manners," she went on. "They only think of themselves."

I could hardly disagree with her. I was old enough to remember having to

learn to make hand signals for turns in driver education. Nowadays it was rare to see drivers turn on their blinker, much less stick their arm out the window. The only hand signals I'd seen were not very polite.

"And furthermore"—she was in full fettle now, and I braced myself for a lecture—"I cannot understand why everyone seems to think it's perfectly fine for these underdressed young people to lounge on the street all day, while they are so intolerant of those poor homeless people when they stand around."

She shook her head slowly. "It's a sad thing the world has come to, in my opinion. I hope I don't have to live too much longer."

I put my hand on her tiny shoulder. "Now, Auntie, things can't be that bad!"

She looked up at me reproachfully. "Just look at the way people treat each other. They won't give even as much as a quarter to a poor man begging on the street, and they don't want to pay taxes for Social Security or public assistance anymore, either."

"Oh, Aunt Hermione, not in Noe Valley!"

"Well, the way they vote is one thing, but I have never seen people so stingy and mean as they are today. Why, even during the Great Depression, when, believe me, most people had a lot less to spare than they do now, everyone would spare a dime."

"Really?" I found that a little hard to believe. "Weren't they worried about crime and drugs back then? I mean, the world is a lot more complicated now."

"Oh, horsefeathers!" Aunt Hermione was out of her chair and pacing the dining room like a lion. "Things haven't changed all that much. They had dope back then, too. And if you're so worried about crime, you ought to take a look at what those insurance companies are up to."

"What?" I knew Aunt Hermione had always had radical ideas, but I wasn't prepared for this.

"Don't you remember that old folk song? 'Some will rob you with a pistol, some with a fountain pen?'" Aunt Hermione sang a bar of Woody Guthrie, and I tried not to smile.

She sighed deeply. "Never mind. I suppose I shouldn't take it all so personally. Anyway, I do my best. I bought one of those poor fellows a sandwich at the Holey Bagel, and he was terribly grateful." She smiled coyly, taking a telltale white paper bag out of her big "Save the Forests" tote. "And I got something for our tea, too."

There were two tissue-wrapped Linzer hearts from the Holey Bagel—my favorite cookies.

I filled the teapot and brought it to the table and we munched in silence for a minute. I thought she had a good point about charity, but I didn't think it was good for her to get so excited.

"I guess we certainly have enough to eat ourselves," I said, just a little guiltily. "Did you happen to pick up anything for dinner?"

Aunt Hermione patted her lips with a napkin. She insisted on cloth ones, and now I was glad of it. They really were nicer, and easier on the planet, too.

"Oh, I thought we could use some brain food," she said. "Considering how complicated you say the world is and how much we're expected to know about it."

I was mystified. "Brain food?" All I could think of was the shelf full of "smart drugs" I'd seen for sale at Real Food Company.

"Fish!" she said triumphantly. "I've got a nice piece of snapper from Drewe's Market, and I know a dandy way to cook it, too. Revolutionary, even." She winked at me.

I had some little yellow Finn potatoes from the Community Store, and I cut them up for roasting while she prepared the fish.

It was absolutely delicious. The vegetables and seasonings made a sauce for the fish and potatoes. It would have been wonderful with rice or couscous, too. And we had a lovely sauvignon blanc (Husch 1993) from Caruso Wines to go with it.

Aunt Hermione looked a little mis-

Spicy Baked Fish

Ingredients

1 pound red snapper, rock fish, sea bass, or halibut

2 teaspoons olive oil

Juice of 1/2 lemon

Salt, pepper

3 Roma tomatoes

1 medium onion

1 fresh jalapeño, seeds removed

1/2 cup chopped Italian parsley

Large pinch of thyme or "fish herbs"

Large pinch of saffron

1/2 cup dry vermouth or dry white wine

Spread one teaspoon olive oil in a Pyrex or ceramic baking dish. Put in fish. Sprinkle with salt, pepper, and lemon juice.

Chop tomatoes, onion, jalapeño, and parsley, and sprinkle over fish. Add herbs and drizzle with another teaspoon olive oil. Pour wine over.

Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes. Serve over rice, couscous, or boiled potatoes.

Serves 2.

chievous as she emptied her glass.

"You know, I've just thought of something," she said.

I looked at her warily.

"I think I'll get up one of those petitions to ask the city to rename Clipper Street Harry Aleo Boulevard," she said. "He has done so much to promote the neighborhood, and I really..."

"Aunt Hermione! Stop it!" She had finally worn me down.

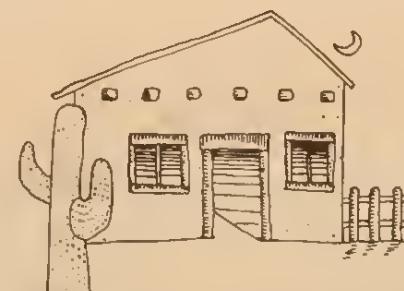
"Oh, my goodness," she said, shaking her head. "That's a fish story. It's not just the manners. People have plain lost their sense of humor, too."

I was certainly glad she hadn't.

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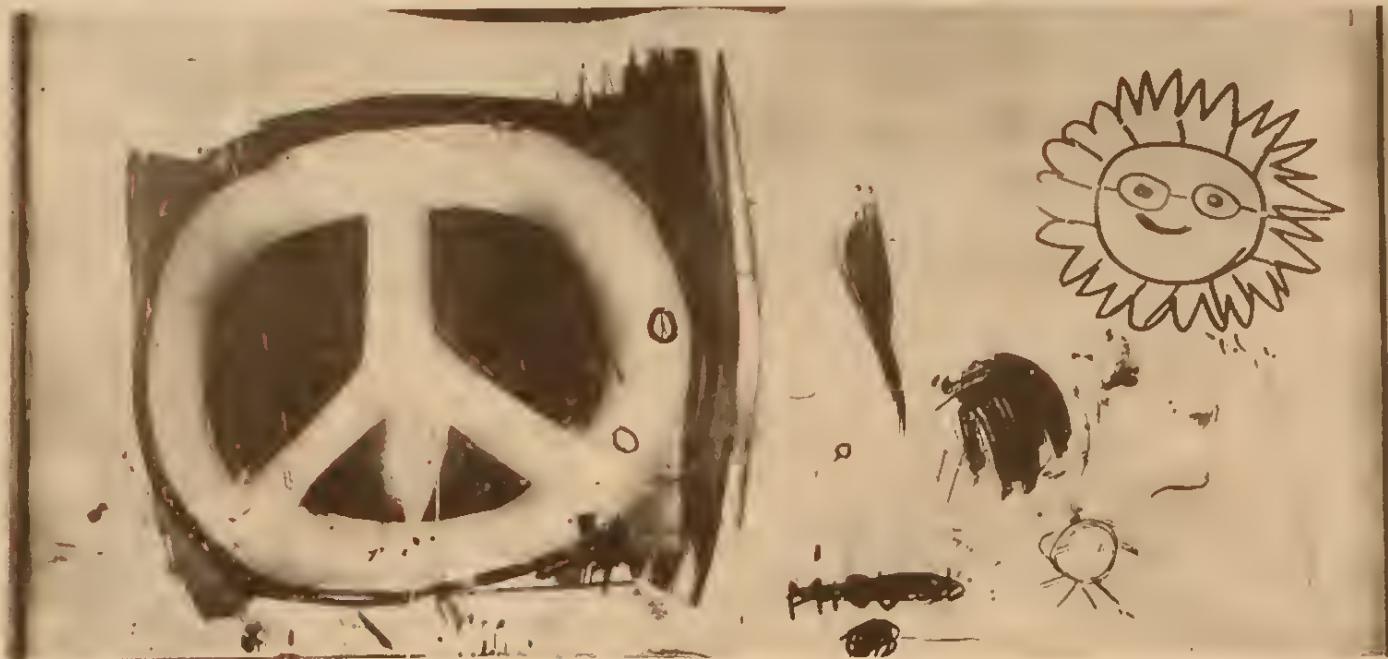
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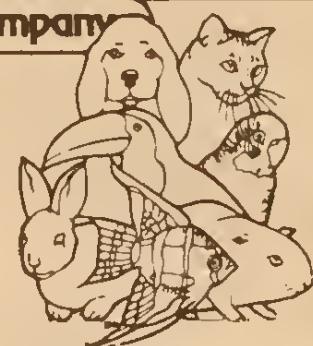
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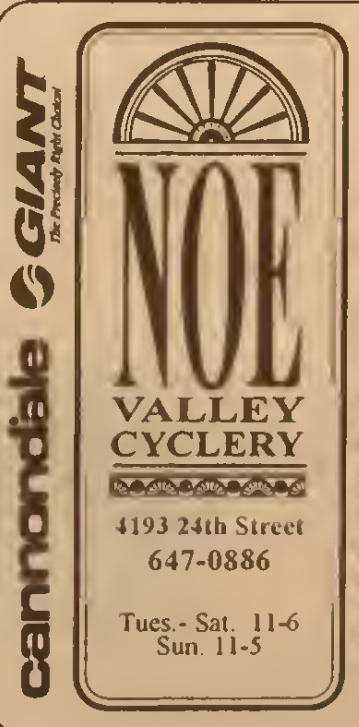
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STORE TREK

By Jim Christie

This month's Storetrek zooms in on three new enterprises: an optometry practice on 24th Street and a vegetarian eatery and fitness clothing retailer in the 1700 block of Church Street.

Eye Q Optometry

4017 24th St.

821-EYES (3937)

Cindy Toy and Kimberly Tom opened their optometry practice, Eye Q, on April 22, in the space formerly occupied by Printmasters on 24th Street between Noe and Castro.

Prior to opening, they put in some long hours remodeling. At one point, says Tom, the two eye doctors felt like archaeologists when they discovered a massive old safe, circa 1920, recessed in a wall. (For you Noe Valley history buffs, the name "Karlo Realty" was emblazoned across its door.) The antique safe now sports a new paint job and is prominently displayed in the front of the shop.

Toy and Tom both grew up in San Francisco. They met at Presentation High School on Turk Street (now closed), attended U.C. Davis together, and then moved on to the State University of New York in Manhattan, where they obtained their O.D.'s (doctor of optometry degrees). Tom in 1991 and Toy in 1992.

After graduating, Tom did a stint with the U.S. Public Health Service, working with Alaskan Eskimos "above the Arctic Circle." Toy honed her skills in an ophthalmology practice.

Both women say they have always loved Noe Valley. When they decided to go into business together, they were delighted to find only two other optometry practices serving the neighborhood's 25,000 residents.

The Eye Q office is an eye-appealing blend of old and new. Antique cabinets and tables from the early 1900s are set amidst futuristic angular walls of soft yellow and green, illuminated by halogen lights hanging from a raised ceiling. The interior was designed by Jeremy Kotas of the architectural firm Kotas-Pantaleoni, known for its innovative design of several homes on Laidley Street.

In addition to a wide selection of glasses, sunglasses, and contact lenses, Eye Q offers comprehensive eye exams, visual field analysis, cataract screening, and glaucoma tests.

Toy specializes in low vision cases, and Tom is experienced in sports vision and working with children.

Office Manager John Cebatos points out that because Eye Q has a finishing lab on the premises, which allows the shop to do its own lens tinting and UV coating, turnaround time can be as quick as one or two days.



Office Manager John Cebatos and owners Kimberly Tom (left) and Cindy Toy have an eye out for you at Eye Q on 24th Street.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES KENNARD.

Eye Q Optometry is open weekdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Doctors Toy and Tom will also schedule Sunday and evening appointments.

In-Training Sportswear

1742 Church St.

282-2724

If you're taking a power walk or jogging down the south end of Church Street, look above Sonia's Beauty Shop near the corner of Day Street, and you'll see In-Training Sportswear, a new fitness clothing store that opened March 30.

Partners Ray Tobias and Loren Trias opened up shop in Tobias' former two-bedroom apartment, after converting the space into an immaculate boutique with hardwood floors, white walls, halogen lights, and a stereo system with wall-mounted speakers. Conveniently, Tobias' mother Sonia is his landlady. She owns not only the ground-floor beauty parlor, but the entire building.

Tobias and Trias, who met in the U.S. Marine Corps, decided to open the store when they realized there was little competition in the exercise clothing market. Both have plenty of experience in the business: Tobias worked for Soccer World in San Carlos, and also for the 1994 World Cup Soccer organization at Stanford. Trias was with the Gap for seven years and then worked as manager and buyer for World's Gym in Showplace Square.

In-Training carries a variety of aerobic and running gear, tee shirts, and women's leggings and tops. Also on hand are fashions for cyclists and body-builders. Some of the better-known brand names include One Step Ahead, Hind, Carushka, Moda Prima, and Iron Generation.

Says Trias, "A lot of people work out regularly, and I think we offer a great variety of sportswear in the latest styles, in an atmosphere of friendly customer service."

"You can find some of the merchandise we carry at big department stores," adds Tobias, "but our prices are better!"



Owner Ray Tobias welcomes athletes of all persuasions to In-Training Sportswear, a new fitness clothing outlet on Church Street.

Sales have been so strong that the partners opened a second In-Training in Burlingame on May 15. Trias will manage the new shop, and Tobias will stay on at the Church Street location.

In-Training Sportswear is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Valentine's

1793 Church St.

285-2257

Valentine's, "the cafe with a healthy attitude," opened on April 29 in the space formerly occupied by Just for You Too, on Church between Day and 30th streets. You can't miss the restaurant's distinctive yellow-and-white-striped awning, bright crimson door, and window flower boxes bursting with blooms.

The cozy interior, designed by co-owner Daniel Morrison, has a blue, green, and red tile floor and enough tables to seat 25, which is good considering all the people crowding in for weekend brunch. The staff is friendly and the aromas enticing. When weather permits, tables are set up on the sidewalk out front.

Valentine's (named after co-owner Kunal Mukherjee's miniature Schnauzer) specializes in vegetarian Indian food at very reasonable prices. On a recent Fri-



Daniel Morrison (holding chef Valentine) and Kunal Mukherjee invite you to sample their tasty vegetarian and Indian fare at Valentine's Cafe on Church near 30th

day, the lunch special — a lentil curry served with basmati rice and yogurt and chutney dressings — was going for \$5.25, tax included.

"It's not all strict vegan food, however," says Mukherjee. "We do use eggs and dairy products in several dishes."

Morrison is a baker and Mukherjee, who hails from Bengal, India, learned how to cook from his mother. In fact, his mother is planning a visit to San Francisco next month. She'll help out in the cafe and will also make sure her son hasn't forgotten any of her culinary lessons.

Besides numerous Indian entrees, Valentine's offers pasta dishes and home-made soups made with all-natural ingredients. For dessert, diners can choose low-fat items such as the mini fruit muffins, or if they're not too concerned about dieting, they can go for decadence with cheesecake or chocolate cake.

And if that isn't enough, "We're now preparing take-home dinners ready to pop in the microwave," adds Morrison. "You can get a great meal here for under \$10."

Valentine's is open Tuesday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., and weekends, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The restaurant will be open for dinner in the near future.

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Pete Brannigan & clients, Sunset District, 1955

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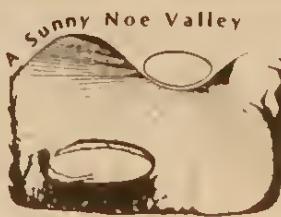
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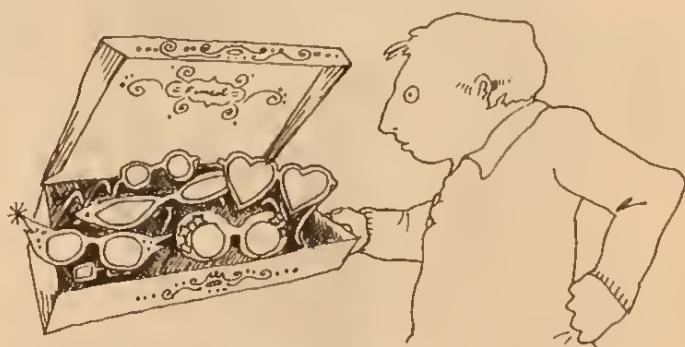
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Clipper Street SAFE Group
Contact: Don Kern or Howard Johnson, 821-3866
Mailing Address: 225 Clipper St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Tuesday of month, Bethany Methodist Church, 201 Clipper St., 7 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association
Contact: Robert Dockendorff, 826-3867
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club
Contact: Bruce Muncil, 864-7847
Mailing Address: 336 Cumberland St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

Duncan-Newburg Association
Contact: Evelyn Martin, 826-6734, Janet Kennedy, 647-1844, or Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club
Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Fairmount Neighborhood Association
Contact: Susan Nutter, 285-8484
Mailing Address: 78 Harper St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors
Contact: Kevin Brickley, 285-4938
Mailing Address: 165 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Twice a year at ICA Auditorium, 24th & Guerrero.

Friends of Noe Valley
Contact: David Geren, 641-4681
Mailing Address: 327 Jersey St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association
Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990, or Hilda Bernstein, 282-8232
Mailing Address: 3333 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Valley Democratic Club
Contact: Rick Hauptman, 647-0549
Mailing Address: 1595 Noe St., #6, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association
Contact: J. P. Gillen, 821-1515
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Last Wednesday of month, Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center
Call 648-1030 for lunch reservations.
Mailing Address: 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Monday through Friday for lunch (donation \$1.25), Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 12:30 p.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants
Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 284 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Monday of month, Just for You Too Cafe, 1793 Church St., 3 p.m.

R.A.A.G.E. (Race Awareness Arbitration Group Education)
Contact: 285-5322
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 426199, San Francisco, CA 94142
Call for meeting times.

21st Street 4000 Block SAFE
Contact: Santiago Rodriguez
Mailing Address: 4014 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Held periodically.

Upper Noe Neighbors
Contact: Janice Gendreau, 641-5989
Mailing Address: 403 28th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Every other month, Upper Noe Recreation Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m. Call for specifics.



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A Call to Duty

Again? I had already served in 1990, then in 1992, so I was surprised to receive another jury duty summons last March. Six and a half years ago when I first served, I felt it was my duty since I had the time, and because I had been excused from serving when my children were small.

But now I am busy leading tours at the De Young Museum and Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park. I also try to be available for my brother's widow, Margaret, who is legally blind.

Margaret has some peripheral vision, but she cannot read the streetcar numbers, nor can she see street signs. Unfortunately, strangers rarely come to her aid, because her beautiful blue eyes show no signs of impairment. She depends upon me to accompany her to numerous doctors' appointments, as well as anyplace else she needs to go via the Muni system.

When the clerk of the Superior Court sent me a summons questionnaire last spring, I was slow in filling it out, and when I finally did get around to it, I said that I would not be able to serve right away, as I was otherwise occupied, leading museum tours for school children. I suggested they check back with me during the summer months.

Perhaps they did not like my attitude, for within a few days, much to my consternation, a summons to appear in Superior Court arrived.

It was raining on March 17, which dampened my already dismal spirits. When I arrived at the Hall of Justice on Bryant Street, I joined a long line of prospective jurors that stretched halfway down the block.

The line wasn't moving, so a group of ladies nearby began speculating as to the nature of the case before us. The first lady suggested that this must be the case of the seven Mission District gang members charged with brutally assaulting two young women in a park at the foot of 24th Street in 1993. She expected to be excused because she was the only bookkeeper for a small company, and this trial, she predicted, would be a lengthy ordeal.

The rest of us were silently considering our options, searching for plausible

excuses, when the African-American woman standing behind me declared that, if chosen, she would wear a blond wig and dark glasses to avoid being recognized by vengeful gang members!

Another lady stated vehemently that she would refuse to serve. These were my sentiments exactly, but it didn't look like I had much choice. I tried to console myself, thinking that no lawyer would want a juror as strongly opinionated as I.

Our line inched slowly into the building, through the metal detectors, up the crammed elevators, and into the large (350-person capacity) assembly room, which was already so full we had to stand in the aisles and foyer.

They gave each of us a 30-page questionnaire. I had to use the flat top of the garbage receptacle next to me to write on. When asked about my feelings concerning rape, I wrote, "These despicable acts of violence against members of my gender are inexcusable and indefensible." I added that I did not have an open mind on the subject.

In response to the query about whether I would be offended by explicit medical photographs of the teenage victims, I promised to throw up before the court. (And I could, too, like I did when I was a teenager, and my father tried to make me eat stringbeans, which I hated.)

When the judge entered the room, she introduced all of the lawyers, then read off the vile charges against the gang members as unconsciously as if she were reading a shopping list. I cringed.

After we turned in our papers, we waited until the clerk came out and read off the names of those people who were excused. They marched triumphantly away, while the rest of us were told to return to court in a week.

For me, that day in court a week later started out with a bang. When I entered the room, I rushed to claim the only vacant seat left in the prospective jurors' gallery. But when I sat on the fold-down seat, it collapsed, depositing me, alarmed but unharmed, on the floor. Others would have suffered the same mishap, had I not warned them in the nick of time.

On the far side of the bulletproof glass partition, the judge was seated on the bench. On her right sat the accused, behind their lawyers. To her left sat the jury panel.

Throughout the day, each lawyer for the defense relentlessly interrogated the jurors—under the gaze of the accused—asking questions that the jurors had already answered on paper.

When it was after five o'clock, the

last lawyer stood up and announced that he would not speak at that time. Much to the judge's surprise, the audience in the gallery burst into applause. But she recovered quickly and directed us to return in the morning.

Unfortunately, I had agreed to accompany Margaret to her doctor on that day, thinking that even if I were called back to court, I would be excused by noon. This didn't happen, however, and poor Margaret suffered a nerve-wracking, unaided journey home.

The next day, the judge read off the names of more people who were to be excused. I listened breathlessly until she uttered the prayed-for name—mine! I was given standby status, which meant I was permitted to go home but had to phone in each day for the next seven days, until my two-week sentence was up.

So many other jurors were phoning in that on some days I had to make 30 calls before I got through by the noon deadline.

Five days passed uneventfully, but on the sixth—just one day short of freedom!—the recorded message directed me to appear in court that afternoon.

I didn't go.

Instead, I kept my date with two classes of delightful school children who were scheduled to be taken on tours at the Academy of Sciences.

Afterward, worried about the consequences of my defiance, I asked our friend, neighbor, and successful lawyer, Wendy Tice-Wallner, if she could tell me what happens to shirkers. Wendy couldn't answer my question precisely, but she kindly offered to defend me!

When a summons to appear at another court session arrived in April, I decided to enlist the help of my sister-in-law, and get myself off the jury hook once and for all. I revealed my plan to Margaret, who was a bit reluctant at first—not wishing to be fitted for an orange jumpsuit. But I assured her that she would not have to say a word, just accompany me to court.



I needed a cane to carry out my plan, so I fashioned one from materials around the house—a wooden dowel, which I tapered at one end and painted white, and a flat piece of wood, which I screwed on top of the dowel, to be a handle.

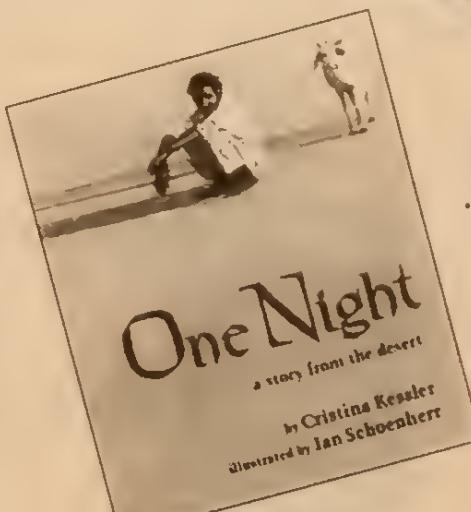
A day later, the two of us appeared at the Hall of Justice. Margaret wore dark glasses and held her cane high. I solicitously gripped her elbow as I steered her down the halls.

The cane worked miracles. People parted like the Red Sea. When we reached the waiting room desk, I told my sad but true story: I was absolutely indispensable to my blind sister-in-law, and therefore would be unable to serve as a juror. The sympathetic clerk asked me to fill out another form, but promised to put in a good word for me with the judge.

When I phoned in later for the verdict, I got the good news: I was a free woman! And I didn't feel the least bit guilty!

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The '60s LIVE! at the Noe Valley Library on History Day, May 7: Marilyn Lucas, a San Francisco native and Noe Valley resident since 1968, displayed part of her huge collection of '60s memorabilia, including flower power buttons, a portrait of J.F.K. and Jackie, and a silk-screened poster of the band Quicksilver Messenger Service. "When we moved to Noe Valley in the '60s," she said, "it was mostly retired older couples who had raised their children. They didn't like my husband and me because we had long hair and a big house—and you know what that means, a commune! But we were married and had a child, and that made us all right." *Psychedelic!* PHOTO BY BEVERLY THARP

POEM

CLIQUE

By Jessie Cannata

Being popular is their only care.
Not thinking of others, not being fair.
Being together, not with you
They don't even notice what you do.
Hurting your feelings.

sometimes others.
They say don't go crying home to
your mother.
When do you trust them, when do
you not?
It's like being tied up in one big knot.
They spread rumors all about you.
How do you stop them.
what do you do?
Go find others, others that dare.
Dare to be different and show that
they care.
I'm going to be different,
let my feelings out.
I'm going to be different
without a doubt.

Seventh-grader Jessie Cannata won first
place for this poem in a spring contest at
St. Philip's School

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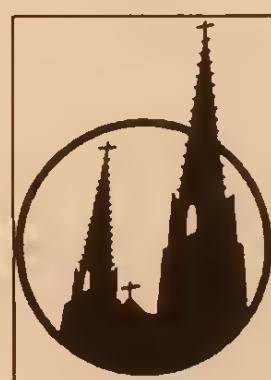
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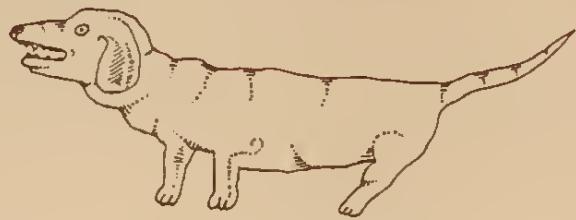
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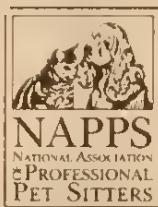
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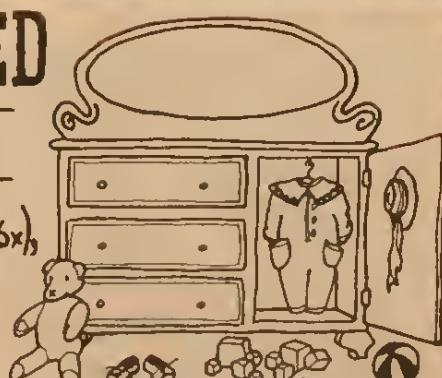
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MORE MOUTHS to feed

Isabella Ruth Jaye

It's early May, and Isabella Ruth Jaye is perusing the bookshelf for a good book to snuggle up with. She pulls out a volume by Winston Churchill. What could be more appropriate reading for the 50th anniversary of V-E Day?

Coincidence? Perhaps, but 16-month-old Isabella has seldom been without a book since she was first able to clutch one. Her dad, Eric Jaye, thinks her bookishness comes from her mom, Jeannene Jaye, an art historian working on her Ph.D. at U.C. Berkeley.

Isabella, the couple's first child, was born Dec. 11, 1993, at California Pacific Medical Center. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces — slightly more than one of Churchill's tomes.

The budding bibliophile has brown hair, hazel eyes, and is slender and "tall for her age," according to Mom. Dad agrees: "She'll be the tallest in the family."

Isabella, Eric, and Jeannene share their home on Chavez-Army Street with two cats, Boris and Mr. Peabody. Is Isabella familiar with *Rocky and Bullwinkle*, the '60s TV show that featured characters with these names?

"No, she watches *Barney*," says Jeannene, "and one of her favorite books is about a dog, Carl, a Rottweiler who babysits a child."

Isabella's not a total bookworm, though. She likes to play at Douglass Park and Noe Courts, and often enjoys a snack at Holey Bagel afterwards.

Other pastimes include visiting Golden Gate Park — she particularly likes Steinhart Aquarium and Stow Lake, where she hand-feeds the ducks — as well as the San Francisco Zoo, where she recently rode in the "Stroller Derby" with Grandma. The book *What Would You Do If You Lived at the Zoo?* is a post-zoo favorite.

"It's so exciting to watch her learn new things and share in her discovery of the world," says Jeannene. "It reminds me of what it's like to see things through a



Baby Isabella Ruth is a handful for parents Jeannene and Eric Jaye of Cesar Chavez-Army Street. PHOTO BY NAJIB JOE HAKIM

child's eyes."

Right now Isabella is keenly observant. Says Eric, "She'll point at books and say, 'Momma, Momma,' whereas with me, it's 'Dadda, Dadda,' when we pass Mitchell's Ice Cream!"

Eric and Jeannene, both 35, met while attending U.C. San Diego. They have lived in Noe Valley for 13 years, and were married in December 1987. Eric is a partner in the media consulting firm Terris & Jaye, and Jeannene is preparing for a teaching job this fall at the San Francisco Art Institute.

When Mom and Dad are working, Isabella spends time with her best friend, Ruth, and their shared nanny, Kate. She also pals around with her cousin Wally and his dog, Witness.

For Eric and Jeannene, having Isabella has been a "joyous and wonderful experience." Eric offers only one bit of advice for prospective parents: "Just make sure

you eat in all the restaurants you've been meaning to, because you won't have time afterwards!"

And now, before we depart, Isabella would like to share her "Top Five" reading list (translations of her comments courtesy of Mom and Dad):

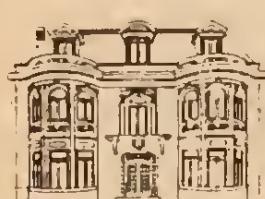
1. Any of the novels of Italo Calvino. "I am very taken with his inventive ironic fantasies."
2. *The Portuguese Phrasebook*. "I don't go anywhere without it."
3. *The Second World War* by Winston Churchill. "The Old Bulldog is still a spot-on bloke."
4. Any books about 19th century still-life painting or the Paris Commune of

1871. "My mom's an expert!"

5. Any of the *Good Dog Carl* books. "Carl is quite cool." □

—Jim Christie

More Mouths to Feed wants to show off your newest family member. If you have welcomed a baby into the house or just adopted a teenager, please send your announcement to the *Noe Valley Voice*, Attention: More Mouths to Feed, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Don't forget to include your address and phone number, so we can arrange for the family portrait. □



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Noe Valley Voice Literary Contest

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Deadline June 21, 1995

The Noe Valley Voice proudly announces the 1995 Voice Literary Contest and a special August issue dedicated to the prize winners in three categories: Fiction (short stories), Non-Fiction (first-person essays, interviews, editorials), and Poetry.

Prizes (awarded in each of all three categories)

First Place	\$100
Second Place	\$ 50
Third Place	\$ 25

Nine big winners will appear in the August 1995 edition of the Voice (circulation 10,000), along with plenty of other fine writing. Subject matter is not limited in any way, but remember—this is a family newspaper!

Contest Rules

1. Manuscripts must be the original work of the contestant, unpublished, and no longer than 2,000 words. They should be typed, double-spaced, and printed on one side of 8 1/2 x 11" white paper.
2. Fiction and Non-Fiction contestants may enter one manuscript only. Poetry contestants may enter three poems.
3. Please submit three copies of your manuscript(s). Do not send originals. Entries will neither be returned nor their receipt acknowledged.
4. Contestants should include their name, address, and phone number on the first manuscript page, and on all poems. Also indicate the title of the piece, and the contest category you are entering. Cover letters are not necessary.
5. There is no entry fee. Entries will be judged by staff members of the Voice.
6. All persons except current staff members of the Voice are eligible to enter.
7. The Noe Valley Voice reserves the right to publish the winning entries and any honorable mentions, as space allows, in the August 1995 Voice.
8. All entries must be received in the Noe Valley Voice office by Wednesday, June 21, 1995. Winners will be notified by July 20 and announced on Aug. 2, 1995, when the August issue hits the streets. (No phone calls, please.)
9. Please mail entries to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Thank you and good luck.

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P O E M

QUO JURE QUINTARIA?
(on the 48)

By Donald P. Hilla Jr.

What was it they said went the way of the blushing bride? Innocent still casting various versions of aspersions aside deciding instead not to run and hide but to turn her head in a last ditch chance casting a nonchalant glance at the handsome young man on the bus smiling quietly to himself red light

Obviously amused by something what she didn't know though she was not confused had something to do with why he was smiling about something which if she had known what it was he was thinking about would have made her feel very very good instead she averted her eyes twice

woman with dog crossing the street

And looked at her watch for his part when his eyes dart and he wondered if at all what she was like pretty face he thought I like her I wish we could talk she looks very nice before you knew it Noe Street her stop and she got up to get off it was just about then that bus stop

For the first time their eyes met yet they both knew what was what his quick look away back down at his book she paused as she got off the bus and he did not and that is how for no good cause this tryst this longing love affair never happened and also how he never had to worry if he had said the wrong thing

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Vicksburg Street resident Donald P. Hilla Jr. is the author of JACOBUS, a book-length prose poem available at Cover to Cover. He also is a contributor to the Spring issue of Poetry USA.

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MORE BOOKS to READ

The Voice reading list comes to you courtesy of Roberta Greifer and Carol Small, librarians at the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, 451 Jersey St. They invite you to check out these and other books on Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1 to 9 p.m.; Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; and Saturdays, noon to 6 p.m. For information, call 695-5095.

New Books - Adult Fiction

Annotated by Roberta Greifer

- Set partly on land, *The Commodore* is Patrick O'Brian's 17th novel in his series of historical naval fiction.
- *Flesh and Blood* by Michael Cunningham, author of *A Home at the End of the World*, portrays four generations of the Stassos family living in the United States.
- Rudy Rucker's "cyberpunk" novel *The Hacker and the Ants* depicts a Silicon Valley computer programmer confronted with a computer-generated insect invasion.

Adult Non-Fiction

- *Abortion*, by Carl N. Flanders, contains summaries of important court decisions on abortion, as well as a discussion of the religious and legal issues involved.

- *Internet San Francisco* is a guide providing addresses, descriptions, and ratings of San Francisco's best Internet sites.

- *Sleeping at the Starlite Motel* is Bailey White's humorous travel memoir of adventures in her small Georgia hometown.

Book of the Month Club

- The topic of this month's Noe Valley Book Discussion Group will be two novels that feature women disillusioned with love, *The Vagabond*, written by French author Colette in 1910, and *Mrs. Caliban*, published by American writer Rachel Ingalls in 1983. The group meets at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., on Wednesday, June 28, at 7:30 p.m.

New Books - Children's Fiction

Annotated by Carol Small

- In *Zoe's Sheep*, by Rose Bursik, an impromptu party is suddenly added to a young child's bedtime ritual. (Ages 2-5.)
- Mem Fox gives us a brief but poignant portrait of a pirate in *Tough Boris*. (Ages 3-5.)
- *Saturday Market*, by Patricia Grossman, provides a glimpse of the people, wares, and feelings involved in a weekly market in Oaxaca, Mexico. (Ages 5-7.)
- In *The Frog Princess*, retold by J. Patrick Lewis, Prince Ivan is forced to marry a "frog bride," but strives to break the spell and return her to human form with the help of the witch Baba Yaga. (Ages 6-8.)
- Mister Fred, who likes sixth-graders, is a wonderful teacher for 6A until he and his dog disappear through a "portal" in the sky in *Mister Fred*, by Jill Pinkwater. (Ages 9 and up.)

Children's Non-Fiction

- Your child can enjoy making bagel faces, hide-and-seek muffins, zucchini moons, and other dishes with a little help from you and *Pretend Soup and Other Real Recipes: A Cookbook for Preschoolers and Up*, by Mollie Katzen and Ann Henderson. (Ages 3-6.)
- Gail Gibbons explains and illustrates a complicated ecosystem in *Nature's Green Umbrella: Tropical Rain Forests*. (Ages 6-9.)

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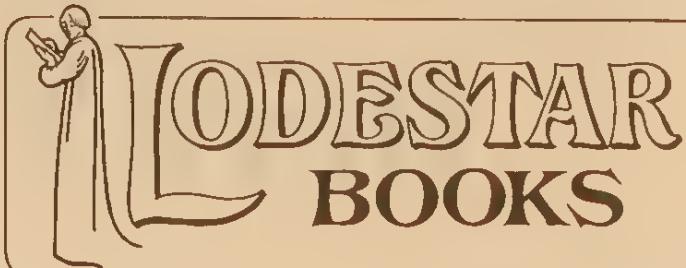
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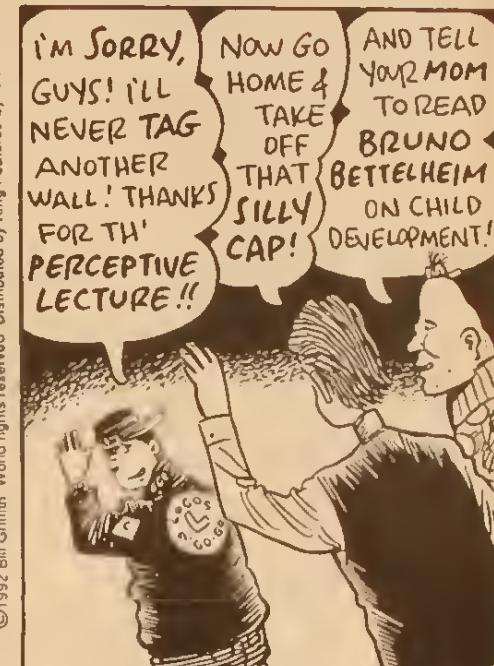
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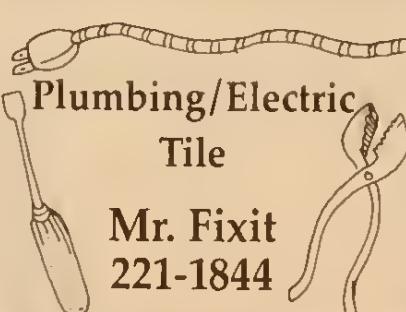


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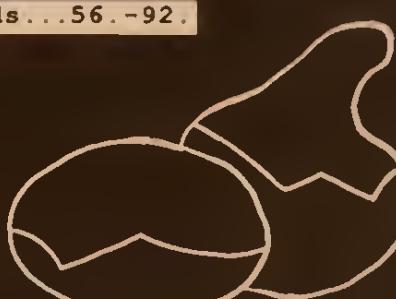
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RUMORS
behind the news

St. Paul's May Be Saved by Condos

By Mazook

ST. PAUL'S PARISH signed on the dotted line last month, and agreed to sell two school buildings to a private developer who says he/she wants to convert the structures into condos.

You will recall reading in our April (no fool's) issue that the parish had put three properties on the market in hopes of saving St. Paul's revered cathedral on Church Street. The buildings put out to bid were the three-story high school on 29th near Church, the grammar school on Valley Street, and a four-story convent, also on 29th Street.

According to B.J. Droubi, the real estate broker who is handling the transaction, a deal has been struck for the two schools, which will bring in "almost all" of the church's \$3.4 million asking price.

B.J. is staying mum about just who the developer is because the deal is "subject to a lot of contingencies," which may delay the close of escrow for almost a year. She did say, however, that the buyer has a "fantastic track record" and is the first choice of the parish building committee.

"This was the highest offer of four bids, and the sentimental favorite, since the developer wants to keep the shell of the buildings intact."

Also on the auction block May 9 was the Blessed Virgin Mary Convent, which houses about 10 nuns. But B.J. says St. Paul's may now be able to hold off on the sale of that structure. "We may have received enough of an offering price on the two schools to allow the nuns to stay in the convent," she says.

Practically all of the proceeds from the pending sale will go into earthquake repairs now required by the city. The church is struggling to come up with \$6.5 million, the amount estimated for seismic retrofitting on its 115-year-old, twin-spire Gothic cathedral (plus one remaining school building). If St. Paul's doesn't complete the earthquake renovations by September of 1997, the archdiocese has threatened to close down the parish and demolish the church.

According to B.J., St. Paul's has already launched a drive to raise some \$3.5 million to save the church and convent. B.J. says she will give 20 percent of her brokerage fees to the church for the building fund.

Hopefully, we will not be saying last rites for this neighborhood landmark, which, I might add, has withstood many large quakes over the past century quite well, and would survive many more in the future, except perhaps that last Big One.

when we'll all fall into the ocean anyway.

• • •

ELSEWHERE IN EARTHQUAKE COUNTRY: Channel 2 Newscaster Gary Kauf says he and his wife Jane Garrison (science and medicine editor for the *San Jose Mercury News*) used to sit around at home on 23rd Street with their two kids, Alec and Chase, pondering where they would go and what they would do on weekends.

"We started planning day excursions to explore the many different places around our beautiful Bay Area," says Gary.

His adventures turned into a regular morning segment on KTVU's *Mornings on 2* called "Our Town." Now Kauf is coming out with *Our Town* the book, featuring 50 "terrific Bay Area escapes," including several in San Francisco neighborhoods such as nearby Glen Park.

"Did you know that smugglers, bootleggers, and outlaws used to hide out in the Glen Canyon caves?" Gary asks rhetorically. He maintains that these ne'er-do-wells, who you'll be glad to know are no longer congregating in the park, "had reached some kind of unspoken understanding with the police." This was before the days of anti-loitering ordinances, I assume.

Gary's favorite day trip, by the way, is to Pescadero, down south along the coast. "It's great to take the kids to Phipp's Ranch along Highway 84, where they can ride ponies, see the barnyard, and pick berries in season, and then go out to the tide pools at Pigeon Point Lighthouse."

Don't forget to check out downtown Pescadero, "and have the artichoke soup at Artichoke's, and go over to Norm's Market for their garlic and herb bread," he says.

The book will hit the streets June 12, and KTVU will air a half-hour "Our Town" special on June 21 at 7:30 p.m.

(You also may be interested to know that Gary used to own and operate his own neighborhood newspaper, the *Sunset Journal*, published from 1974 to 1977.)

• • •

MEANWHILE BACK IN OUR TOWN, it looks like Selecta Auto Body at 4050 24th St. has been selected as one of the backdrops for a new CD-ROM game called *SFPD Homicide*, created by a Noe Valley production company and starring (in cameo roles) former city cops Frank Falzon and Kevin Mullin.

"We also did some scenes at a house on 29th and Noe streets, and at over 20 other locations in San Francisco," says Paul Drexler, who along with wife Julie Marsh runs InterWorks, a small multimedia production company on the southern edge of Noe Valley.

When the game, which is based on a real San Francisco murder case from the 1970s, is released this fall (in time for Christmas), Paul promises to "get a demo installed somewhere in Noe Valley, hopefully in the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, on the corner of Diamond and 24th."

• • •
SHORT SHIRTS: The hottest (or coldest) rumor in Downtown Noe Valley these days is that the Double Rainbow Ice Cream parlor, which for the past year has been operated by franchise owner Jim McFadden, will close soon. What will take its place? A bagel shop. (But this part of the rumor is melting fast.)

While we're on the 24th Street beat, realtor Ed Mullins reports he's had quite a few nibbles, mostly from bar and restaurant people (sorry, no booze allowed), but no takers yet for the Cork 'n' Bottle space, across the street from the Rat 'n' Raven.

Not a rumor but a sad fact is that the folks at Hot Headz and Supercuts, the two feuding haircutters who occupy adjacent storefronts, have not spoken to each other in the year since Supercuts came in and gave Hot Headz a buzz cut.

Perhaps we all need a vacation, a breath of fresh hair. Global Exchange, the Third World gift shop on 24th near Sanchez, can tell you how to sign up for a study tour in Cuba, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Chiapas (Mex.), or Chile. Or you could accompany their delegation to the Women's World Conference in Beijing at summer's end.

Meanwhile, the ad hoc committee trying to reverse the supes' decision to rename Army Street for Cesar Chavez will be searching for about 3,700 of you to sign their petition. Pro-Army organizers say they've collected 6,000 of the 9,700 needed to put their repeal measure on the November ballot.

The Friends of Noe Valley has announced that it will no longer let its bylaws be bylaws. The non-profit residents' group intends to "simplify and modernize" its operating rules, to make them more user-friendly. To be part of this historical moment, come with or without a Friend to the group's next meeting, June 8, 7:30 p.m., at the Noe Valley Library.

Next time you're in BofA, give a handshake to Daveine Pasdera and Margo Mendoza, Noe Valley branch manager and customer service manager, respectively. The two women were honored recently as top sales performers in the state of California.

Also give a pat on the back (except if he's holding a camera) to Noe Valley fine art photographer Tim Baskerville, who has penned an interview with famed photographer Michael Kenna, which will be published in the July issue of *Camera and Darkroom* magazine.

I wish I'd had a camera last month. I spotted that old guy who smokes a cigar and panhandles on 24th Street, coming to "work" in Downtown Noe Valley in a cab!

• • •

THE WINDOW-SHOPPER-STOPPER of the month has to be Star Magic's "Sneak a Peek Into the Night" display, put together by Star Magician Rik Sanjour. Rik, as you stargazers already know, is one of the lecturers for the Morrison Planetarium. He says his 24th Street window display "is just an arbitrary sky [it could be anywhere] made with peel-and-stick stars and planets and painted galaxies, and



glow-in-the-dark goodies."

Evidently, window-shoppers have been getting into the stargazing a little too enthusiastically, because Rik has had to put up a sign warning people to "watch your head" and not bump into the glass.

On the DNV sportswear scene, Classy Sweats reports that the shop is selling out of San Jose Sharks hats, shirts, sweats, and even shorts. Says proprietor Bob Jankula, "The Sharks are really hot now [during the playoffs], and we've had a real run on all their stuff."

Baseball paraphernalia, on the other hand, has been moving very slowly. According to Bob, the local team that Noe Valleons care least about when it comes to wearing colors is the Oakland A's. Actually, since the strike, we haven't cared much about anybody.

You know the times are changin' when the Sharks are more popular in May than the Giants.

• • •

CONGRADUATION to the Class of '95 at McAteer and Mission High Schools. Welcome to adulthood. I hope that each and every one of you goes on to further your education, at least for two more years. Set some goals and achieve them. Don't place your hopes on winning the lottery. There ain't no easy street. I mean isn't any.

Oh, and perhaps you could write and explain, in 50 words or less, exactly how the California Lottery has helped you matriculate.

I leave you with the words of Benjamin Mays, former president of Morehouse College in Atlanta: "The tragedy of life doesn't lie in not reaching your goal. The tragedy lies in having no goal to reach."

• • •

AS FOR THE REST OF US, our goal should be to make sure that every kid in America gets the best education in the world. Did you know that part of the Republican contract on America is to abolish the Department of Education, stop the school breakfast program, and cut funding from the only enlightened TV programs on the air?

Can't they see that today's booming prison population is a direct result of the neglect of our public schools?

The ugly political scene and the rising bad-apple index these days remind me of the chilling words of lawyer Clarence Darrow, speaking in defense of John Scopes, who was put on trial in 1925 for teaching Darwin to his students:

"With flying banners and beating drums, we are marching backward to the glorious age of the 16th century, when bigots lighted faggots to burn the men who dared to bring any intelligence, enlightenment, and culture to the human mind."

That's 30, folks. Ciao for now. □



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CHARLIE THE PHONE GUY: Residence and business telephone systems, fax/modem lines, office-in-home. Old phone jacks brought back to life. Separate jacks for roommates. Free estimates. Noe Valley resident. Call 641-8654.

FULL-CHARGE BOOKKEEPER is looking for a part-time client who has one to two days a week of steady work. I have 12 years of computerized and manual bookkeeping experience. My services include financial statement preparation, income taxes, audits of bank accounts and reconciliations, manual to computerized bookkeeping conversion, inventory control, A/R, A/P, payroll and sales tax. Please call Gary at 824-1429.

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PERSONAL CARE ASSISTANT. 7 to 9 a.m., Oiamond Heights. Responsible female. English-speaking, drug-free. Health needs: transferring, bathing, foot care. Experience desirable. Approximately \$7-plus/hour. 406-5950.

JOURNAL WRITING FOR MOTHERS. Nancy Oentsch, M.S.W., writer, mother, will lead "Mothers in Transition," a six-week journal writing workshop, June 22 to July 27. Workshop meets Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. To register call (415) 648-6121. Workshop held at Little Bean Sprouts, 3961 24th St. Writing topics include: finding time for yourself, career transitions, juggling roles, setting goals.

CHILDREN'S PLAYWRITING WORKSHOP. Thursdays and Fridays in July, 12:30 to 3 p.m. for kids ages 12 and up. Students create an original one-act play. Call Leslie, 346-3554.

EXPERIENCEO TEACHER/reading specialist available to tutor K-12 students and/or assess child's needs and create individualized reading plan to accelerate development. \$20/hour. Barbara, 826-0517.

YOGA FOR MEN. Six-week class tailored for male strengths, needs, and physiology. 8 p.m. Mondays, beginning June 19. New Dawn Yoga Therapy, 285-1831.

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VEGETARIAN COOKING: Four Thursday at Noe Valley Ministry beginning June 22, 6 p.m. Please pre-register. 285-1831.

WAREHOUSE PERSON WANTED one day a week (Thursday) 9 to 5, for June, July and August. \$10 per hour. Phone SCRAP, 647-1746.

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CAT & PLANT CARE is still providing responsible, loving care to cats and homes in Noe Valley and environs, through daily visits on a set schedule. Excellent local references available. Call for a cat chat and additional information. Anna-Kais (A-K), 648-8132.

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WOMEN WRITERS' GROUP meets monthly in Noe Valley to provide support for challenges of writing and the creative process, including writer's block, inner critic, self-disclosure, failure/success issues, isolation. Individual consultation also available. Maire Farrington, M.F.C.C. #24893. 282-5965.

MOTHERHOOD—IS IT FOR ME? Two one-day workshops (June 24 to July 15) planned to explore this choice with other women. Amhivalence can be immobilizing. Take the next step. Co-led by Denise Carlini, M.F.C.C., and Ann Oavidman, M.F.C.C. Registered Intern #IMF20110. Supervisor: K. Glaser, M.F.C.C. #18869. 985-7464.

GROUP THERAPY FOR WOMEN with eating disorders. Food does not have to be the most important thing in your life. Overeating, throwing up, not eating are not as impossible to overcome as they may seem. We now find it helpful to relate to others who are working to gain control of their lives and their eating. The group will meet Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The fee is \$25 per week. For further information, call Dr. Pat Sax, 661-7158.

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POETRY WANTED. The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of poetry, particularly those poems related to neighborhood themes, people, or places. Payment upon publication. Send submissions with SASE (and a phone number, please) to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. P.S. See our poetry contest announcement, page 2 of this issue.

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JUST PLAIN GOOD THERAPY Brief counseling, crisis help, or in-depth work offered to individuals and couples of "all sexual persuasions" by well-aged, intuitive, perceptive, and highly skilled counselor who has seen, heard, and experienced a broad range of life's challenges. Upper Glen Park, easy parking. Jeanne Adleman, M.A. 585-0666.

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WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP meets weekly in Noe Valley. Professionally-facilitated group provides opportunity for improving relationships and communication, changing self-defeating patterns, increasing personal growth, achieving goals. Individual sessions also available. Maire Farrington, M.F.C.C. #24893. 282-5965.

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How to Use Voice Class Ads

The rate for classified advertising in the Noe Valley Voice is 25¢ a word. Just type or print your copy, multiply the number of words by 25¢ (we trust you), enclose a check or money order for the full amount, and mail it to us by the 15th of the month preceding the month in which you'd like the ad to appear.

Please let us know whether your ad is a renewal from a previous issue. (But be sure to give us the full ad copy, in any case.)

Reward for Loyalty: The Voice prints a news edition 10 months a year. Starting this year, we will publish a special literary issue in August, featuring display ads only. (Call Steve at 239-1114, and he'll be happy to give you our display ad rates and sizes.) There is no January issue, because we're on vacation for the month of December.

If you decide to place the same class ad in 10 issues (a year's worth), you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. When figuring your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next Voice will be the July 1995 issue, and will hit the streets on Wednesday, June 28. To place a class ad, mail your ad copy and a check, made payable to the Noe Valley Voice, so that we receive it by June 15. The address is Noe Valley Voice Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Sorry, but we are unable to accept phone orders.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be highlighted in all caps. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you. □

PRODUCTIVE PSYCHOTHERAPY. My 20 years of experience confirm that you can make your life work: to recover, enjoy healthy relationships, grow with life's challenges, and love yourself. Individuals, couples, workshops. Arlene Dumas, L.C.S.W. 641-4553.

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CALENDAR



Joe Hakim's photo of Giants' manager Dusty Baker will be on display along with other baseball imagery at the George Krevsky Fine Art gallery on Geary Street during the month of June

JUNE 1-17: Theatre Rhinoceros and This Side of Butch present the Garden Variety Lesbian VARIETY SHOW Thurs.-Sat., 8:30 pm. 2926 16th St 861-5079.

JUNE 1-30: Noe Valley Voice photographer Joe Hakim is represented in a group BASEBALL exhibit, "Art. The Great American Pastime." Reception, June 1, 5:30-7:30 pm. George Krevsky Fine Art Gallery, 77 Geary St. 397-9748.

JUNE 2: Artists' Television Access screens outrageous drug and auto safety FILMS of the 1970s. 8:30 pm. 992 Valencia St. 824-3B90.

JUNE 3: Sanchez Elementary School offers workshops and an orientation for VOLUNTEERS in the public schools. 9 am-noon. 325 Sanchez St. 274-0250.

JUNE 3: Jan Zobel leads a seminar on basic TAX and recordkeeping information for self-employed people. 10 am-4 pm. 1197 Valencia St. Call 821-1015 for required preregistration.

JUNE 3: The People with AIOS Coalition discusses the formation of a consumers' UNION in San Francisco. 12:30-3:30 pm. Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Coltingwood St. 621-7712

JUNE 3: Bethany United Methodist Church hosts a TALENT AUCTION of meals, vacations, and more. 7 pm. 126B Sanchez St. 647-B393

JUNE 3: Jonathan Bley and Beth Taboh-Bley perform French MUSIC for piano and narrator by Satie, Poulenc, and Debussy. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

JUNE 3 & 4: Volunteer TRAINING for Project Inform's AIDS treatment hotline runs from 10 am-4 pm. Call Jane Levik at 558-8669 for info.

JUNE 5: The SENIOR Action Network presents "The Grey Cabaret. Talent Through the Ages." 2 and 7 pm. Alcazar Theater, 650 Geary St. 863-2033

JUNE 6 & 27: Preschool STORY TIME at the Noe Valley Library begins at 10 am. 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

ZIPPY



"L. L. BEING"



BILL GRIFFITH



The Scoop on Calendar

The July issue of the Noe Valley Voice will appear Wednesday, June 28, and will publicize calendar events occurring in the months of July and August. The deadline for Calendar items is June 15, 1995. Please mail your notice to the Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley events receiving priority. □